

**MINUTES  
of the  
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, January 5, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Lisa Parrish, Ray Johnson, Thomas Gutwa, Rob Foster, James Belz, Gwen Beeson.

**ABSENT:** Robert Cooper

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**A moment of silence was held in memory of Councilmember Robert Cooper.**

**Invocation – Councilmember Beeson**

**Pledge of Allegiance & Pledge to the Texas Flag – Council and Public**

**1. Public Comments:**

- None

**2. Mayor Comments:**

- Mayor Parrish welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Parrish provided an update on the recent passing of Councilmember Robert Cooper.

**3. Consideration of City Council Minutes dated December 15, 2022.**

- Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes dated December 1, 2022. Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried (4-0-1, Foster abstained)

**4. Discussion and take possible action on the replacement of the vacant council seat of Ward III.**

- City Manager Bernie Parker explained the process of the vacancy based on the City Charter.
- Council discussed the requirements of the position and then directed staff to advertise the information to the public so that citizens could submit letters of interest for the vacancy.

**5. Discussion and take action on emergency repair of Fire Department Engine 78.**

- Chief Dan Warner provided the city council with an update on the repairs needed for Engine 78.
- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve authorizing the emergency repair of Fire Department Engine 78 not to exceed \$40,000. Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried (5-0-0)

**6. Discussion and possible action approving Resolution No. 2023-414 authorizing the emergency repair of Well #14.**

- Director of Public Works Don Martin provided information and an update on the condition of Well #14.
- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-414 authorizing the emergency repair of Well #14. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.
- Motion carried (4-1-0, Belz Against)

**7. City Manager report**

- **City Manager Bernie Parker provided his report.**

**8. Executive Session: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the City Council may convene into a closed, Executive Session in accordance with the following authority:**

551.071 (consultation with the attorney)	551.072 (real property)	551.073 (prospective gifts)
551.074 (personnel matters)	551.076 (security matters)	551.087 (economic development)

- **Executive session was not held.**
  - a. **551.074 (personnel matters) – Houghton et. Al v. City of Keene.**

**Executive Session may be held, under these exceptions, at the end of the Regular Session, Workshop and/or Special Session, or at any time during the meeting that a need arises for the City Council to seek advice from the City Attorney as to the posted subject matter of this City Council Meeting.**

**9. Reconvene into Open Session for possible action resulting from any item posted and discussed in Executive Session.**

- **No action was taken.**
- **Executive session was not held.**

**10. Discussion and requests for future items on the agenda.**

- **Mayor Pro-Tem Belz requested further information on the CaresAct.**
- **Mayor Pro-Tem Belz also requested some information on the live streaming from an individual in the audience.**
- **Councilmember Johnson requested employees' schedules and the hours they work.**
- **Mayor Pro-Tem Belz requested an update on the sewer system capabilities.**

**Mayor Parrish went back to Public Comments:**

- **AJ Thompson - 6109 Walla Ave, Fort Worth, TX – Spoke about his company products.**
- **Judge Sydney Hewlett – presented Mayor Parrish with a plant.**

**11. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

By: 

**Lisa Parrish, Mayor**

Attest: 

**Nataaniel Drambareanu, Interim City Secretary**