

**MINUTES of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020**

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Heinrich, Mayor Pro Tem Beeson, James Belz, Robert Cooper, Lisa Parrish, Rob Foster and David Bass.

CALLED TO ORDER: Called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance & Texas Pledge

Invocation was given by Mayor Heinrich, Council led in the pledges.

- 1.** Public Comments: *Paul Gnad* requested that lights be added to the parking lot at the Shopping Plaza where the Dollar General Store is located. A woman had an incident where a man tried to follow her from the store but when he heard and saw her husband, he quickly retreated. It is a safety issue to have a well-lit parking lot. *Samantha Gillin* agreed and stated that the owner of the shopping strip should install more lighting. The Mayor asked for an introduction so he could talk to him about it.

Fire Chief Warner announced that he had a verbal agreement that the installation of the Weather Siren will begin next Monday. It will take several days to complete but it is finally in motion.

- 2.** Mayor's Comments: *none*
- 3.** Consideration of City Council Minutes dated January 16, 2020.

Mayor Heinrich called for a motion. Councilmember *Cooper* moved to approve the minutes from January 16, 2020, second by Councilmember *Belz*. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

- 4.** Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Ordinance No. 2020-607 regarding Noise Nuisance in the City of Keene.

City Manager Boese outlined some of the highlights of the ordinance and explained how hard it is to enforce noise ordinances when there is no way to measure the level of noise. The only action the police can take is to ask the offender to turn down their music or keep their dog quiet, depending on the source of the noise. Subsection C is one of the main sections of the Ordinance because it defines what an unreasonable noise level is and Subsection D which outlines what the criminal offense is. The recourse for this will be through the judge and court process. The Ordinance allows for fines to be set up to \$2,000 and allows for citizens to file their own complaints if the Police Department has not been able to remedy the issue to their satisfaction. The Council had some questions and additions to add to the Ordinance. Councilmember *Parrish* asked that daycares be added as an exempt entity for noise violations.

Councilmember Foster moved to table the item until the February 13th meeting, second by Mayor Pro Tem *Beeson*. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Resolution No. 2020-367 to continue participation with the ATMOS Cities Steering Committee and authorize payment to committee related activities.

The Mayor explained that ATMOS has a consortium of cities that form a steering committee to lobby on behalf of all cities in the area. This steering committee works to keep the price of gas down for all member cities. It is a cost-saving measure since no one city can afford to pay a legal team to lobby on their behalf. The City of Keene is represented by this Steering Committee and saves money on ATMOS gas fees due to its participation.

Councilmember Cooper moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-367 continuing participation in the ATMOS Cities Steering Committee, second by Councilmember Bass. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Resolution No. 2020-368 to adopt a Comprehensive, Coordinated, Interagency Approach to Freeway Incident Management Model.

City Manager Boese stated that this Model will help during traffic incidents such as the multicar accident that occurred on Highway 67. It will assist in training emergency workers in how to stage the area for the most protection for themselves, those involved in the accident, and passing motorists. This is a program through North Texas Council of Governments. They have safety grants available for equipment such as traffic cones and they asked that we approve this Resolution and send back to mirror the resolution they have passed.

Councilmember Foster moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-368 adopting the Comprehensive, Coordinated, Interagency Approach to Freeway Incident Management Model, second by Councilmember Bass. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

7. City Manager's Report:

Mr. Boese said that the Noise Ordinance would be back on the Agenda for February 13th, and he will have the Tax Freeze Ordinance on that agenda as well. The Civil Engineering Plans for the apartment complex at College and Fourth as well as the subdivision at Wallen Ridge and Fourth to the West of College should be submitted next week. They should be clearing the trees already. There is city-owned mobile home that is unlivable and is not in any shape to remove in one piece. We have gone out for bids to remove it. The lowest bid is \$3,450.00 to remove it. We would like to make the land a small city park with just some grass in the beginning and add equipment later. The property room at the PD is going to be addressed February 6-10. The audit is underway, and the Finance Director is working with the auditors to get the information they need to facilitate the process. The water accounts are now back on schedule to be sent late notices. On January 9th, 522 citizens received late notices. We tried to work with them to get them on a payment plan. By January 20th,

the initial cut-off for water was 289 so that is a good decrease. We gave 180 extension. By January 23rd, there were 109 citizens who had their water cut off. In the

ensuing days, 84 of those have paid some on their bill and had their water restored. The Chief of Police application is open, and we've received 28 or 29 applications. Tomorrow we will have a retirement party for Johnny Coker who has been with the City of Keene for 29 years.

Councilmember Belz recognized Mr. Campbell for his hard work on our City vehicles day in and day out. He is one of the unsung heroes working for the City.

- 8.** Adjourn: *there being no further business, Mayor Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.*

By: *Gary Heinrich*
Gary Heinrich, Mayor

Attest: *M. Boese, City Manager*
Patsy Patten, TRMC
City Secretary