

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

THURSDAY, February 16, 2023

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

ABSENT:

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

Invocation – Councilmember Foster

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

1. Mayor Comments:

- Mayor Parrish welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Public Comments:

- Paul Gnadl – 107 N Old Mansfield, spoke about Keene Business Expo.
- Cheryl Schram – 1002 W. 4th St, spoke in opposition to item 6 – Executive Session.
- Jennifer Bagget – 200 Pine St, spoke in favor of item 6 – Executive Session.
- Samantha Gillin – 218 W 4th St, spoke in opposition to item 6 – Executive Session.

3. Keene Police Department 2022 Racial Profiling Report Presentation.

- Chief Thomas Williams provided the council with the 2022 Racial Profiling Report.

4. Department Report.

- Finance Department.
- Director of Finance Charles Williams presented the report.

5. City Manager report

- City Manager Bernie Parker provided his report.

6. 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)

- Council convened into executive session at 6:27 pm.
 - a. City Secretary
 - b. Interview City Secretary candidate(s)
 - c. Conduct interviews and evaluations of applicants for appointment to the vacant City Council member Ward III position.

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.

7. Reconvene into Open Session for possible action resulting from any item posted and discussed in Executive Session.
 - Council reconvened into Open Session at 10:17 pm.
8. Take action by appointing a City Secretary
 - Councilmember Belz made a motion to approve appointing Tabatha Mansell as City Secretary pending the passing of the hiring process. Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried. (5-0-0)
9. Discussion and take action regarding the appointment of City Council Ward III replacement to serve until the next regular November election.
 - Mayor Parrish requested a motion to appoint Owen Larson.
 - Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve appointing Owen Larson as a replacement to City Council Ward III to serve until the next regular November election. Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried (4-1-0, Beeson against)
10. Administer Statement of Officer and Oath of Office for City Council Ward III appointment.
 - This item was moved to the next council meeting.
11. Discussion and take possible action authorizing a contract with an interim services provider for the City Secretary position.
 - Councilmember Beeson made a motion to indefinitely table authorizing a contract with an interim services provider for the City Secretary position. Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried (5-0-0)
12. Discussion and requests for future items on the agenda.
 - None
13. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

By: 

Lisa Parrish, Mayor

Attest: 

Natanael Drambareanu, Interim City Secretary