

**MINUTES of the  
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**



**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

Gary Heinrich  
**Mayor**

Lisa Parrish  
**Place I**

David Bass  
**Place II**

James Belz  
**Place III**

Rob Foster  
**Ward I**

Gwen Beeson  
**Mayor Pro Tem (Ward II)**

Robert Cooper  
**Ward III**

## **Attendance**

### **Present**

- Mayor Gary Heinrich
- Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Beeson
- Councilmember Lisa Parrish
- Councilmember David Bass
- Councilmember James Belz
- Councilmember Rob Foster
- Councilmember Robert Cooper

### **Absent**

- None

**CALLED TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Invocation was given by Gary Heinrich  
Pledge of Allegiance & Texas Pledge

1. Public Comments:
  - **None**
2. Mayor's Comments:
  - **None**
3. Consideration of City Council Minutes dated February 27, 2020.
  - **Mayor Pro-Tem Beeson made a motion to accept the minutes for February 27, 2020, seconded by Councilmember Foster.**
  - **Motion carried unanimously (6 Yes – 0 No).**
4. Presentation by Republic Services and discussion regarding renewal of Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Contract.
  - **Republic services representative Laura Capehart presented council with a 5 year contract bid for the solid waste services. During the presentation, Laura presented the council with three options that would be beneficial for both the company and the city.**
    - **Option 1 was to keep the same contract agreement which included a \$0.51 per home decrease. This option would still include the quarterly clean-up day and a free land fill use. This option would increase the cost per cart if you have more than one cart.**
    - **Option 2 was having the regular trash service with an on-call monthly bulk pick-up of 3 cubic yards of bulk or brush items. The on-call part of the service is to make sure that the citizens are aware of what can be placed out at the curb. This option would include a \$0.06 per home decrease.**
  - **Councilmember Belz asked if there was a way to negotiate the brush portion of the bulk. He stated concerns that he noticed locations that had brush placed neatly and were not picked up. Laura stated that she was going to check in on the issue stated and she also hoped that the council would go with the monthly bulk pick-up. She stated that this would allow residents to throw out more items more often.**

- Councilmember Parrish clarified that in Option 1, the cost per cart would go up if you have more than 1 cart. Laura stated that if a customer has a second cart, the rate will go from \$3.41 to the new rate of \$3.75 per cart.
- Councilmember Parrish and Councilmember Foster sought clarification regarding the on-call service. Laura stated that the city would have a set schedule so that the customer knows what day the pickup is, and what can be placed out.
- Councilmember Parrish stated that a consensus she got online was for option 1 as citizens like having the set quarterly pickup.
- City Manager Boese stated that the presentation from Republic Services was to see what the council thought about the options presented and if the council would want to renew the contract. Mr. Boese advised the council that the city can go out for a Request for Proposal (RFP), but there could be a risk of the bids coming in at a higher rate.
- Councilmember Foster stated that he was not impressed with the service due to some delays in his cart getting replaced after it broke down.
- Mr. Boese advised the council that the staff recommended the monthly bulk pickup. He advised that the quarterly pickup takes significant staff time to make sure that the public puts the trash out accordingly. This would allow the public to have their bulk picked up the following month in case they missed the previous month bulk pickup.
- Councilmember Cooper stated that since humans are creatures of habit, the pickup should be on a set schedule so that it gets taken care of.
- Bob Bischoff spoke regarding the location of where the trash bins end up. He stated that he wanted to make sure that they ended up at the curb where they were picked up.
- Samantha Gillin praised Republic staff for their services.
- Mayor Heinrich advised staff to continue conversation with Republic Services on a contract renewal since the consensus of the council was for option 2.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the final plat for Bristol Oaks Addition.

- Cheryl McClain advised that the item is coming in front of the council with a favorable recommendation from both city staff and planning and zoning commission. She advised that both the Public Works Director and Engineer are in favor of this, but this item needed to come before council since this would be a variance on the 200 foot radius. Ms. McClain stated that the developer was also looking for the front yard setback to be a 20 foot minimum to be placed on the face of the plat.
- Councilmember Belz requested clarification of the 200 foot radius that was up for discussion and the Bristol Oaks Addition developer Cody Weiss provided some clarification.
- Wes Schram spoke requesting staff and council to consider keeping 200 feet from the main road for commercial properties.
- Dan Roberts spoke regarding the main roadway name along the highway.
- Public Works Director advised the council that the roadway is named differently depending which plat you are looking at. He advised that the city would have to check with the county and see what that road is named.
- Samantha Gillin spoke for the cities need for commercial land.
- Paul Gnadt spoke regarding the roadway name and open space.

- Councilmember Belz made a motion to approve final plat Bristol Oak Addition as presented and to allow for the 200 foot radius in order to allow the 90 degree intersection with Katherine P. Raines Rd., seconded by Councilmember Foster.
- Motion carried unanimously (6 Yes – 0 No).

6. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Ordinance No. 2020-608 regarding a Tax Freeze for Property Owners Aged 65+ and/or Disabled.

- Ray Johnson – spoke in favor of tax freeze
- Samantha Gillin – spoke in favor of tax freeze
- Bob Bischoff – spoke in favor of tax freeze
- Councilmember Foster spoke regarding the numbers provided by Dan Roberts last meeting and stated that freezing property taxes would not significantly impact property owners, but would impact city operations.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Beeson spoke regarding what services the residents are willing to go without if the tax freeze passes. She spoke for employee salary alignment based on surrounding agencies and briefly discussed the turnover rate of employees.
- Thomas Gutwa – spoke in favor of tax freeze

Mayor Pro-Tem Beeson made a motion to deny Ordinance No. 2020-608 regarding a Tax Freeze for Property Owners Aged 65+ and/or Disabled, seconded by Councilmember Cooper.

- Motion Failed
  - 3 – For
    - Councilmember Beeson - Mayor Pro Tem
    - Councilmember Cooper
    - Councilmember Foster
  - 3 – Against
    - Councilmember Belz
    - Councilmember Parrish
    - Councilmember Bass
  - Tie-Break
    - Mayor Heinrich – Against

Councilmember Bass made a motion freeze the taxes, seconded by Councilmember Belz.

- Motion Passed
  - 3 – Yes
    - Councilmember Belz
    - Councilmember Parrish
    - Councilmember Bass
  - 3 – Against
    - Councilmember Beeson - Mayor Pro Tem
    - Councilmember Cooper
    - Councilmember Foster
  - Tie-Break
    - Mayor Heinrich – For

7. Department Reports

- **Public Works Department – Director Don Martin**  
Mr. Martin provided a monthly report on Public Work Departments' activity. Both Mr. Martin and the Fire Chief Dan Warner addressed COVID-19 and assured the council that the city is prepared should the virus enter our community.
- **Police Department – Interim Chief Rob Sherwin**  
Interim Chief Sherwin provided a monthly report on Police Departments' activity.
- **City Manager – Mike Boese**  
City Manager Boese provided a monthly recap of the city's activity.

8. Executive Session:

*The City Council of the City of Keene, Texas, reserves the right to convene into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices) and 551.086 (Economic Development).*

- **None**

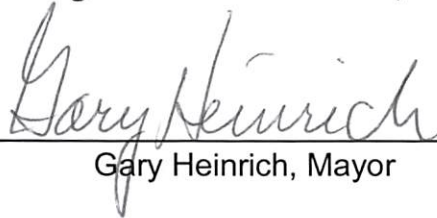
9. Reconvene into Open Session for possible action resulting from any item posted discussed in Executive Session.

- **None**


10. Adjourn:

- **There being no further business, Mayor Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Gary Heinrich, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Natanael Drambareanu  
Assistant to the City Manager