

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Lisa Parrish, Owen Larson, 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 Rob Foster.

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

1. Mayor Comments:

- Mayor Parrish welcomed the public.

2. Public Comments:

- Mr. Don Beeson spoke on decorum.

3. Discussion to select committee members to review applications and make recommendations to the council for the position of City Manager.

- Mayor Parrish asked Councilmembers Larson and Gutwa to be the committee members to review applications, set up interviews, interview, and present top 2-3 candidates to the City Council.
- Councilmembers Larson and Gutwa agreed.

4. Discussion and take possible action to approve a pay increase for personnel in the Police and/or Fire Departments.

- Mayor Parrish requested taking possible action to approve a pay increase for the Police Department at the April 6, 2023, Council meeting.
- Captain Shroud- Spoke on the topic. He is in favor.
- Chief Warner- Spoke on the topic. He is in favor.
- Phillip Jackson- Spoke on the topic.
- Kevin Romanelli- Spoke on the topic. He is in favor.
- Samantha Gillin- Spoke on the topic. She is in favor.
- Captain Howerton- Spoke on the topic. He is in favor.
- Captain Shroud- Spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve a \$13,000 pay scale adjustment for all certified personnel in the Fire Department and Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried (5-1-0, Johnson against)
- Councilmember Beeson made a motion to table a possible pay scale adjustment for all certified personnel in the Police Department, until the April 6, 2023, City Council meeting. Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.

- Motion carried (6-0-0)

5. 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 7:17pm
 - a) 551.074 (personnel matters) – Police Chief

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

- Council reconvened into Open Session at 7:40pm.
- **No action was taken.**

7. Discussion and requests for future items on the agenda.

- Councilmember Belz requested action on ambulance fee adjustments.
- City Manager Parker requested discussion on the possible pay scale adjustment for personnel in the Police Department.
- Mayor Parrish requested action on the Type B Board appointments.

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

By: 

Lisa Parrish, Mayor

Attest: 

Tabatha Mansell, City Secretary