

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Gwen Beeson, Lisa Parrish, Robert Cooper, Rob Foster, and Phillip Jackson.

ABSENT: Mayor Gary Heinrich & David Bass

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation – Gwen Beeson

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Pro-Tem Gwen Beeson

1. Public Comments:

None

2. Mayor's Comments:

None

3. Consideration of City Council Minutes dated January 21, 2021 Regular Called Meeting.

Councilmember Parrish made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes dated January 21, 2021 Regular Called Meeting. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

4. Discuss and take possible action on a Resolution No. 2021-381 awarding an engineering contract related to the 21/22 TxCDBG grant application and project.

City Manager M. Boese stated that six firms provided proposals for this grant project. The proposals were scored by four staff members and Mayor Pro-Tem Beeson on January 20, 2021. Two firms scored very close. These two firms met with the team that scored the proposals. The team recommends Schaumburg & Polk, Inc to be awarded the engineering contract related to the 21/22 TxCDBG grant application and project.

Frank Stephens and Sam Mota from Schaumburg & Polk, Inc (SPI) introduced themselves and their company. They are a small company of approximately 60 employees. They have extensive experience and are excited to have the opportunity to serve the city of Keene.

Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-381 awarding an engineering contract related to the 21/22 TxCDBG grant application and project. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5-0-0.

5. Department Reports:

a. City Manager –

The pothole truck has been delivered. A few lights will need to be installed, staff training, and materials are needed. It should be operational by the end of February.

The draft for the 2019 audit has been received and is being reviewed. It should be ready to be presented to the council on the February 18th meeting.

Mr. Boese is continuing to work with Hilltop Securities and Pinnacle Bank on refinancing the cities debt. Once the audit is complete, the S&P rating can be updated, and we will be able to move forward with councils' directions on the refinancing. Interest rates have dropped in the city's favor.

The water cutoffs were down to 70 from the 100's of previous months. This is due to customers catching up on their bills.

The preliminary Capital Improvement Plan has been delayed. Mr. Boese and the Financial Director Williams have been reviewing the plan that had been previously presented to council from the previous administration and found a significant number of bells and whistles that would cause a large amount of debt to the city. During this review, there are several items that could be cut or reduced to save money. This plan should be ready for council to review on the February 18th meeting.

The digital city map maintained was lost during the 2019 ransom attack. The city has been working on rebuilding this map with the help of the engineering firm. The map should be completed soon.

The city staff has been working on a way to attach audio to the city website. This will be a cheaper option than the option of video. It will allow the public to listen to the Council, Planning and Zoning and the Economic development meetings.

Lisa questioned the City Manager about the termination of the Zitro, Inc. contract and why this decision was made without consulting the council for approval and that bids were not taken. Mr. Boese stated that he did not want to give the reasons the contract was terminated in a public forum it may hurt Zitro's business. He stated that the bid process is not required for professional services.

Councilman Cooper agreed that bringing the issues up in a public forum was not appropriate and that the council hired the city manager to run the city. The City Manager oversees making the day to day decisions and that the members should trust him in making the best decisions for the city.

Citizen Estevan Solis asked to speak and questioned why Councilmember Beeson sighed into the mic when Councilmember Parrish questioned the city manager about the Zitro contract. Mr. Solis also addressed Councilmember Parrish that if she felt that his topic needed to be discussed that she should have asked for this to be an agenda item so that all of the council members would have been aware and

had time to research the information or she could have spoken with the City Manager in private about the issues instead of asking during a public forum.

6. **Executive Session:** Pursuant to Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government, Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney), 551-072 (real property), 551. 073 (prospective gifts), 551.074 (personnel matters), 551.076 (securities matters), 551.087 (economic development). Executive session may be held, under the 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 matter of the City Council Meeting.

No Executive Session.

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

No executive session.

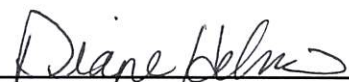
8. **Discussion and requests for future items on the agenda.**

Charges for open records requests.

9. **Adjourn 6:20 p.m.**

By: 

Gwen Beeson, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest: 

Diane Helms, City Secretary