

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

THURSDAY, May 18, 2023

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

ABSENT: None.

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

Moment of silence for Matthew Davis.

Invocation – Councilmember Foster.

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

1. Mayor Comments:

- Presented community events from the previous two (2) weeks.
- Announced Councilmember Beeson sponsored a meal for the Police Department in honor of National Police Week.
- Announced Board Member Schram sponsored a meal for the Police Department in honor of National Police Week.
- Police Chief Kidd briefed the council and public on the Matthew Davis homicide incident.

2. Public Comments:

- None

3. Consideration and approval of City Council minutes dated May 4, 2023.

- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve the City Council minutes dated May 4, 2023.
- Councilmember Larson seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 6-0-0.

4. Discussion and take possible action to cancel the contract agreement with John R. McAdams Company Inc.

- Interim Assistant City Manager Don Martin spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Foster made a motion to cancel the contract agreement with John R. McAdams Company Inc.
- Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 6-0-0.

5. Discussion and take possible action adopting a new agreement with Eric Wilhite Planning+ Design.

- Interim Assistant City Manager Don Martin spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.

- Councilmember Foster spoke on the topic.
 - Mayor spoke on the topic.

 - Councilmember Foster made a motion to table adopting a new agreement with Eric Wilhite Planning+ Design until the next council meeting.
 - Councilmember Larson seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 6-0-0.
6. Discussion and take possible action appointing an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission with the term expiration March 2024.
- Interim Assistant City Manager Don Martin spoke on the topic.
 - Mayor spoke on the topic.

 - Councilmember Larson made a motion to approve appointing Edgardo Perez Sr. as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission with the term expiration March 2024.
 - Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 6-0-0.
7. Discussion and take possible action appointing an Interim City Manager or a person who will perform, on an interim basis, the duties of the City Manager.
- Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Foster spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Johnson spoke on the topic.

 - Councilmember Gutwa made a motion to approve appointing Mayor Lisa Parrish as Interim City Manager or a person who will perform, on an interim basis, the duties of the City Manager.
 - Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 4-3-0.
 - Councilmembers Johnson, Gutwa, and Larson in favor of the motion.
 - Councilmembers Belz, Foster, and Beeson against the motion.
 - Mayor broke the tie in favor of the motion.
8. Department Report.
- Finance Department - Director of Finance Charles Williams presented the monthly report.
9. 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 6:48pm
 - a) 551.074 (personnel matters) -City Manager Interviews

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

- Council reconvened into Open Session at 9:26pm.

11. Discussion and take possible action appointing a person to perform the duties of a City Manager.

- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve appointing Brent Batla as City Manager pending acceptance of an Offer Letter and passing a background check.
- Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 4-2-0
 - Councilmembers Belz, Foster, Larson, and Beeson in favor of the motion.
 - Councilmembers Johnson and Gutwa against the motion.

12. Requests for future items on the agenda.

- Mayor requested Eric Wilhite to attend the next council meeting.
- Councilmember Belz requested a discussion over money market options.
- Councilmember Johnson requested to discuss Don Martin's job titles.
- Councilmember Foster requested an update on the Sidewalk project.
- Councilmember Gutwa requested a report regarding an infrastructure breakdown.

13. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

By: 

Lisa Parrish, Mayor

Attest: 

Tabatha Mansell, City Secretary