

MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

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

ABSENT: Rob Foster.

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

Invocation – Councilmember Gutwa.

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

1. Mayor Comments:

- Chief Kidd introduced Lieutenant Steele.
- Lieutenant Steele introduced himself to the Council.

2. Public Comments:

- Jameye Jones spoke to the Council about the Pioneers and Old Settlers Reunion.

3. Consideration and approval of City Council minutes dated May 30, 2023, and June 1, 2023.

- Councilmember Gutwa made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes dated May 30, 2023, and June 1, 2023.
- Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.

4. Discussion and take action adopting Ordinance No. 2023-656 authorizing the issuance and sale of City of Keene, Texas public property finance contractual obligation, series 2023; Levying an annual ad valorem tax for payment of said obligations; providing an effective date; and enacting other provisions relating to the subject.

- Finance Director Charles Williams spoke on the topic.
- Hilltop Securities Managing Director Jim Sabonis spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Belz spoke on the topic.
- Chief Warner spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
- Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
- Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
- Troy Smith spoke on the topic.

- Councilmember Belz made a motion to approve adopting Ordinance No. 2023-656 authorizing the issuance and sale of City of Keene, Texas public property finance contractual obligation, series 2023; Levying an annual ad valorem tax for payment of said obligations; providing an effective date; and enacting other provisions relating to the subject; **with the caveat of the ESD funds being used as payment towards the principal.**
- Councilmember Gutwa seconded the motion.
- Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.

5. Discussion and take possible action canceling the Regular City Council Meeting on June 15, 2023.
 - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Belz spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Johnson spoke on the topic.

 - Councilmember Beeson made a motion to deny canceling the Regular City Council Meeting on June 15, 2023.
 - Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 3-2-0 (Gutwa and Larson against).

6. Discussion and give direction to staff on advertising time frame for the Zoning Board of Adjustment positions with the term expiration of June 2023.
 - Staff was directed to advertise on Facebook and Keene website, from June 12th to June 23rd, then bring applications to Council on July 6, 2023.

7. 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)

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

9. Requests for future items on the agenda.
 - Councilmember Johnson requested to discuss the possible dismissal of the Interim City Manager.
 - Samantha Gillin requested this topic to be added to the agenda.
 - Mayor polled the Council and consensus was not met.
 - Councilmember Belz requested to ensure all appointed and elected City officials have an Oath of Office on file.
 - Councilmember Gutwa wants to know which department is responsible for maintaining the trees along the roadside on N Eastland Street, between Pecan and E Oakdale streets.
 - Councilmember Beeson requested to discuss avenues to use the CARES Act Funds.

10. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

By: Lisa Parrish
 Lisa Parrish, Mayor

Attest: Tabatha Mansell
 Tabatha Mansell, City Secretary