

Belton City Council Meeting
March 23, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.

The Belton City Council met in regular session in the Wright Room of the Harris Community Center. Members present included Mayor Wayne Carpenter, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Kirkley and Councilmembers David K. Leigh, Craig Pearson, Guy O'Banion and Daniel Bucher. Councilmember John R. Holmes, Sr., was absent. Staff present included Sam Listi, Gene Ellis, John Messer, Amy Casey, Jon Fontenot, Paul Romer, Chris Brown, Mike Rodgers, Angellia Points, Kim Kroll, Bob van Til, Tina Moore and Matt Bates.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag was led by Councilmember Craig Pearson, and the pledge to the Texas Flag was led by Director of Finance Mike Rodgers. The Invocation was given by Councilmember David K. Leigh.

1. **Call to order.** Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. **Public Comments.** *(Audio 1:45)*

There were none.

3. **Proclamation – Fair Housing Month.** *(Audio 1:50)*

Director of Planning Bob van Til was present to receive the proclamation.

4. **Receive an After Action Report on the February 2021 Winter Storm.** *(Audio 7:06)*

Fire Chief Jon Fontenot provided a summary of the City's response to the February 2021 Winter Storm as shown in Exhibit "A."

5. **Recognize Bell Contractors and TTG Utilities for their assistance following the February 2021 Winter Storm.** *(Audio 28:42)*

Director of Public Works Angellia Points recognized Bell Contractors and TTG Utilities for their assistance following the winter storm disaster. Mayor Carpenter presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Consent Agenda

Items 6-8 under this section are considered to be routine by the City Council and may be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by the Council, any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to voting, at the request of any Councilmember, and it will be considered separately. *(Audio 34:20)*

6. **Consider minutes of previous meetings:**

A. February 25, 2021, Special Called City Council Meeting;

B. March 9, 2021, City Council/BEDC Joint Workshop Meeting; and

C. March 9, 2021, City Council Meeting.

7. Consider a resolution suspending for 45 days the effective date proposed by Atmos Energy, Corporation – MidTex Division (“Atmos Energy”) in its application filed on or about February 26, 2021, pursuant to section 104.301 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act, sometimes also referred to as the “GRIP” statute.
8. Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Jaynes, Reitmeyer, Boyd & Therrell, P.C. for professional audit services for fiscal years 2021 to 2023 with the option of two additional one-year extensions.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Leigh, and a second by Councilmember Pearson, the Consent Agenda, including the following captioned resolution, was unanimously approved upon a vote of 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-14-R

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, ("CITY") REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION – MIDTEX DIVISION, TO INCREASE RATES UNDER THE GAS RELIABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM; SUSPENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RATE APPLICATION FOR FORTY-FIVE DAYS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN A COALITION OF CITIES KNOWN AS THE "ATMOS TEXAS MUNICIPALITIES;" DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED COMPLIED WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT; MAKING SUCH OTHER FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Planning and Zoning

9. Hold a public hearing and consider a zoning change from Neighborhood Service District to Planned Development Single Family-2 on approximately 5.09 acres located on Huey Drive and described as Liberty Valley Phase I, Block 006, Lot 0001.
(Audio 35:36)

Planner Tina Moore presented this item.

Public Hearing: No one spoke for or against.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Leigh, and a second by Councilmember Pearson, Liberty Valley Phase I, Block 006, Lot 0001, was rezoned to Planned Development Single Family-2 upon a vote of 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELTON BY CHANGING THE DESCRIBED DISTRICT FROM NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE DISTRICT TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT SINGLE FAMILY-2 ZONING DISTRICT ON A 5.09 ACRE TRACT, WITH DEVELOPMENT TO BE REGULATED UNDER TYPE AREA 9 DESIGN STANDARDS.

Miscellaneous

10. **Hold a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 3-1, “Confining small animals and fowl; proximity to residences” of the Code of Ordinances related to the possession of chickens within the City limits.** (Audio 48:40)

Assistant City Manager/Chief of Police Gene Ellis presented this item.

Public Hearing: No one spoke for or against.

Mayor Pro Tem Kirkley asked Carey Leech, 1007 Terra Alta Drive, his opinion on roosters. Mr. Leech said he was supportive of the change to not allow roosters.

Upon a motion for approval by Councilmember Bucher, and a second by Councilmember Leigh, the following captioned ordinance was unanimously approved upon a vote of 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 3-1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELTON REGARDING SMALL ANIMALS AND FOWL; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN OPEN MEETINGS CLAUSE.

11. **Consider an Ordinance adopting Budget Amendment #1 to the City of Belton FY 2021 Annual Budget.** (Audio 57:59)

Director of Finance Mike Rodgers presented this item.

Upon a motion for approval by Councilmember Pearson, and a second by Councilmember O'Banion, the following captioned ordinance was unanimously approved upon a vote of 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, ADOPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, FOR ITS FISCAL YEAR 2021; BY PROVIDING DETAILED LINE INCREASES; BY MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS; DECLARING THIS A MATTER OF PUBLIC NECESSITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

Work Session

12. **Receive a presentation and discuss Electric Scooters as a transportation alternative in the community.** (Audio 1:14:29)

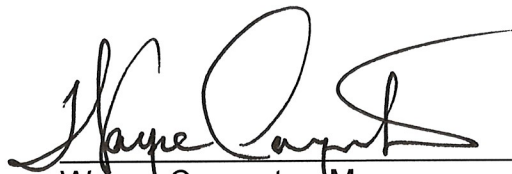
Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Bates presented information on electric scooters as a transportation alternative as shown in Exhibit "B." No action was required of the Council.

Executive Session

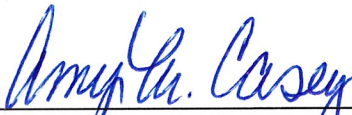
At 7:12 p.m., the Mayor announced the Council would go into Executive Session for the following item:

13. **Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Govt. Code, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, in accordance with the authority contained in Section 551.072, to discuss a real estate transaction.**

The Mayor reopened the meeting at 7:43, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Wayne Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:


Amy M. Casey, City Clerk

2021 Winter Storm After Action Review – Summary

February 11 – 18, 2021

City of Belton



EXHIBIT "A"



AAR Objectives

- The purpose of the AAR is to:
 - Identify Preparedness Steps Taken by each Department.
 - Overview of events and each City Department's response to the winter storm.
 - Identify what went well when dealing with the event.
 - Identify Departmental deficiencies when dealing with this type event.
- Answer the question “What Lessons Did We Learn?”



Department Preparedness:

- All Departments were notified of the possible sub-zero weather conditions and possible rolling electrical brown-outs. Each department prepared their staff, vehicles, equipment and facilities in order to provide emergency service to the citizens.
- Department Internal & External communications processes put in place.
- Notifications were published via social media and Code Red of possible City closures.

Winter Weather Conditions

2-11 thru 2-18 - Below Freezing





Power Outages

- The State Office of Emergency Management put out notice that ERCOT was going to perform rolling power outages starting on Feb. 11 and lasting through the entire event.
- February 14th, several parts of Belton and Bell County began experiencing power and water outages.
- ERCOT announced on February 14th the outages were due to power producing equipment failure, not rolling outages. Sites should prepare for long-term outages.
- Some power outages lasted until the 18th of February.



Water Outages

- Within the first three days of temperatures not reaching above freezing, reports of water outages began.
- Most outages were specific to the home or business and were caused by frozen water lines.
- There was a major water main break on 6th Avenue which was repaired within 24 hours.
- Once the temperature went above freezing, the City experienced a high call volume of water issues to include tower sensor issues.
- Most calls for service were requests for the water valves to be turned off due to leaks in homes and business.
- Very few water issues were due to City infrastructure failure.



Warming Sites:

- Belton American Legion Hall – 101 W. Avenue
 - 6 person usage
- Belton Middle School – 1704 Sparta Rd.
 - 1 family usage
- North Belton Middle School – 7907 Prairie View Rd.
 - 3 Family usage
- Overnight Shelter needs were transported to Salado United Methodist Church
 - 3 people from ALH transported



Responses

- Public Works:
 - City shop responded to 17 City Vehicle issues
 - Unknown for other crews. This was the biggest lesson learned during the event. We did not keep track of all meters that were turned off.
- Parks & Recreation:
 - 2/11 - Patriot Plaza Flag - Froze and became damaged/dangerous.
 - Staff in conversation with PW about assistance by mid-week of storm. Ultimately coordinating assistance for weekend to relieve staff.
 - Estimate # calls that needed responding to: 30



Police Department Responses

- Police units responded to 151 calls for service ranging from stranded vehicles to public assist.

Fire Department Responses

- 2 Structure Fires (both mutual aid to include the Hilton Fire in Killeen)
- 9 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 46 Medical Assist
- 23 Public Assist
- 18 Alarm Activations



Operational Adjustment

- City Administration:
 - Staffed City Hall for two (2) 24 hour periods for increased responsiveness to the community
- Fire Department:
 - Changed responses to medical emergencies to CPR and when EMS were not readily available.
- Police Department:
 - Eliminated random patrols and developed emergency only response plan.
- Public Works & Parks:
 - All operations were modified to respond to the storm.



Top Identified Common Strengths

- Teamwork
- Flexibility - Willingness and Ability of employees to work outside their normal scope
- Responsiveness to Internal and External needs
- Dedicated Employees - Morale
- Preparedness – Proactive approach
- Communications
- Police and Fire All Wheel Drive Vehicles
- Ability to work remotely
- State of the art I.T. infrastructure



Obstacles

- Limited Staffing
- Damage to some City facilities' plumbing due to hard freeze
- Slow and Dangerous responses due to icy roadways
- Limited winterizing supplies
- Lack of overnight accommodations for City employees
- Major water break – employee exposure to the cold
- Limit access to some areas of the City
- Multiple City vehicles stuck due to traction issues
- Power and water outages



Top Recommendations:

- Each Department create a policy and process for forwarding calls when City Offices are closed during normal work hours.
- Emergency Services and Public Works create Standard Operating Guidelines for Winter Weather Responses which outlines:
 - Chain of Command
 - Communication Plan
 - Response Precautions
 - Facility Preparations
 - Vehicle & Equipment Readiness



Recommendations:

- Open and staff the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and prepare an Incident Action Plan prior to known large scale weather events. Scale the EOC to properly manage the size of the event. (should not be an after thought)
- Continuous messaging on office closures, utility bill changes, Library updates, etc. Social Media, Code Red, Etc.
- The City should officially designate Emergency essential/nonessential personnel and clarify duties for each in an emergency.
- Pre-approved contracts with vendors who can assist in operations should be in place.
- A better water valve marking & mapping system may be needed to quickly identify locations and notify building owners.

Questions or Comments?



E-SCOOTERS

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY



HOW THEY WORK

- App based program.
- Open an account. Link account to your credit card. Some providers will require picture of Drivers License.
- Open app and locate if scooter is near by.
 - Some scooters will be strategically placed in high need areas.
- Scan QR Code on scooter frame and off you go.
- When you complete a ride most providers will ask you to take a picture of the scooter parked upright and away from public pathways.
- You are charged a \$ amount for how far/long you traveled.
- Time zones for rides and slow or dismount zones can be created in cities. Geo-fencing areas of operation.



HISTORY:

November 2020:

- City of Belton representatives were contacted by Bird Co. about a new business model they were rolling out where electric scooters were being introduced into smaller communities.

February 2021:

- Bird Co. contacted City staff to notify them that they had indeed secured a potential fleet manager and wanted to pursue bringing scooters to the community. Initial plan is to have 50 scooters.
- The City received a second request from 'Whitefox Scooters' on 2/24 about a desire to partner with City and UMHB to bring E-scooters to the community.



MICROMOBILITY

Definition: *Transportation over short distances provided by lightweight, usually single-person vehicles (such as bicycles and scooters).*

Pros:

- Reduces car rides on roads.
- Connects more residents to transit options.
- Carbon neutral - helps improve air quality.
- Rides help connect with local businesses.

Cons:

- Clutter from scooter pile ups on sidewalks and ROW.
- Increase in injury - riders and pedestrians.
- Riders going where they shouldn't - sidewalks, trails, etc.
- Ability of riders - novice and beginners understanding of Traffic laws.



DISCUSSION

- Is there a desire for more transportation alternatives like E-Scooters in our community?
- Do ordinances need to be amended or created to permit use of E-Scooters?
- Are there areas of town that use of E-scooters would be promoted or discouraged?
- Questions and concerns?

