

**BELTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 29, 2014**

The Belton City Council met in a special called meeting with the following members present: Mayor Jim Covington, Mayor Pro Tem Grayson, Councilmembers Jerri Gauntt, Craig Pearson, John Agan, and Dan Kirkley. Councilmember David K. Leigh was absent. Staff present included John Messer, Sam Listi, Jana Faucett, Brandon Bozon, Mike Huber, Mack Parker, Erin Newcomer, and Paul Romer.

1. Call to Order: The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Discuss and provide direction to the staff regarding application of the City's requirements and standards for the provision of sidewalks.

City Manager Sam Listi noted a request was submitted for this meeting by Councilmember Gauntt and with concurrence by Mayor Covington and Mayor Pro Tem Grayson, staff desires policy guidance from the Council on its expectations and the expectations of the community regarding sidewalks.

Mr. Listi provided a brief overview of staff's interpretation and current practice for sidewalk requirements.

Mr. Listi noted sidewalk installation has not been required along local streets in residential subdivisions and City staff have been evaluating the sidewalk standards, and reviewing the Subdivision Ordinance as a whole for future amendment. Mr. Listi stated staff has been emphasizing the installation of sidewalks along collector streets and in capital projects and noted subdivisions including Chisholm Trail West Addition; Liberty Valley, Phase III; Highland Estates, Phase II; and Dawson Ranch, Phase V will each provide or will provide sidewalks along collectors. Mr. Listi stated proposed capital street projects done by the City such as Wheat Road, Sparta Road, and West Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, will have sidewalks/trails along these roadways. Mr. Listi stated staff recognizes the need for sidewalks along collector streets because they connect to other collector streets and serve neighborhoods, and this connectivity is important because it increases walkability within the City.

Planning Director Erin Newcomer stated City staff researched sidewalk requirements for surrounding area cities as a means of comparison, and provided a brief overview of these requirements.

Mr. Listi stated staff needs policy guidance from the Council and, given Belton's history of applying sidewalk requirements as we have, whatever is decided will likely need ordinance revision and discussion in the community prior to full implementation.

Mr. Listi stated if Council's preference is to require sidewalk installation along local streets as well as collectors/arterials, staff recommends requiring the homebuilder/owner to install a five (5) feet wide sidewalk along local streets prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy, similar to the City of Copperas Cove and City of Killeen, with developers providing the sidewalk along collector/arterials with construction of streets.

Public Works Director Mike Huber discussed safety concerns resulting from the lack of sidewalk provisions. Additionally, he talked about the favorable economic development impact of an emphasis on this quality of life item.

Following a brief discussion concerning benefits and costs of sidewalks provided along all streets, collector streets, and arterial streets, the overall consensus of Council was for staff to present policy recommendations, and bring back to Council future consideration.

3. Discuss pending information requests concerning calling a City Local Option Election for the "Legal Sale of Beer and Wine Off Premise" in November, 2014.

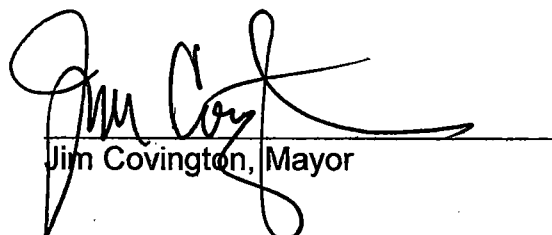
City Clerk Jana Faucett provided a brief overview of the general requirements to hold a local option election to expand the current boundaries given recent requests received by staff. Ms. Faucett noted in order for this election to be held in November of 2014, a written application for a petition seeking an election would have to be submitted in May of 2014, and staff would keep Council informed if an application was received.

At 6:20 p.m., the Mayor announced the Council would reconvene for the following closed meeting:

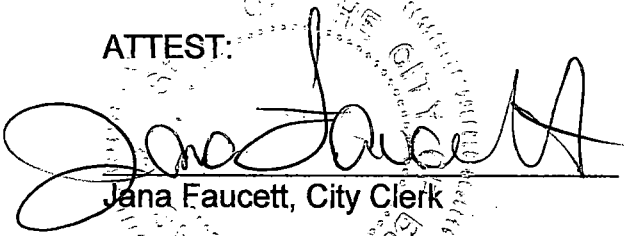
#### Executive Session

4. 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 real estate transaction.

The Mayor reopened the meeting at 6:31 p.m., and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jana Faucett, City Clerk

Jana Faucett, City Clerk

