



Meeting Minutes
City Council

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
200 West Walker Street

Regular Meeting

The City Council of the City of League City, Texas, met in a regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 200 West Walker Street on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor:

Pat Hallisey

City Council Members:

**Andy Mann
Hank Dugie
Larry Millican
Todd Kinsey
Greg Gripon
Chad Tressler
Nick Long**

City Manager:

John Baumgartner

Assistant City Manager

Bo Bass

Assistant City Manager

Michael Kramm

City Attorney:

Nghiem Doan

City Secretary:

Diana M. Stapp

Chief of Police:

Gary Ratliff

Executive Director of Development Services

David Hoover

Director of Budget/Project Management

Angie Steelman

Director of Engineering:

Christopher Sims

Director of Finance:

Kristine Polian

Director of Human Resources/Civil Service:

Janet Shirley

Director of Parks & Cultural Services:

Chien Wei

Director of Public Works:

Jody Hooks

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor Hallisey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and called the roll. All members of Council were present.

Present 8 - Mayor Pat Hallisey, Mr. Andy Mann, Mr. Hank Dugie, Mr. Larry Millican, Mr. Todd Kinsey, Mr. Greg Gripon, Mr. Chad Tressler and Mr. Nick Long

2. **INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE TEXAS FLAG**

The invocation was given by Pastor Aaron Martinez of the Dominion Church. Mayor Hallisey led in the pledges of allegiance to the flags.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3A. 20-0253 May 26, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mayor Hallisey asked if there were any corrections. He said hearing none, these minutes are approved.

4. **PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, AND COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**

4A. 20-0247 Report from Emergency Turnaround Task Force (Mayor Hallisey)

The report was given by Scott Livingston, Director of Economic Development. Follow up comments were given by Council Member Hank Dugie.

4B. 20-0259 Community Spotlight - Keystone Community Development Corp. and Operation Honor Our Local Veterans, Inc. (Mayor Hallisey)

5. **CITIZENS REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL**

The privilege of speaking at this time is limited to the following persons: residents, persons having an ownership interest in property or a business located within the City, or their attorneys.

A statement of no more than 3 minutes may be made. There will be no yielding of time to another person. State law prohibits the Mayor and members of the City Council from commenting on any statement or engaging in dialogue without an appropriate agenda item being posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Comments should be directed to the entire Council, not individual members of Council or staff. If addressing a specific agenda item, speakers must keep their remarks specific to the item being considered by the City Council. Any speaker making personal attacks or using vulgar or profane language shall forfeit his/her remaining time and shall be seated.

Carlene Neeley, Executive Assistant, read public comments from online submittals:

NAME	SUBJECT
Brandon Lee	Personal Masks
Ashley Salinas	Rising COVID Cases
Christina Von Toussaint	Mandatory Masks
Suzy McCusker	Wearing Masks
Lorri Stew-Killyon	Mask Order

Citizens appearing before Council:

Byram Lass	Bike Trails
Cathy Driscoll	Protests/Statues

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

- 6A. 20-0248 Hold a public hearing on an amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of League City amending Chapter 125, entitled “Zoning”, regarding the Alcoholic Beverage Sales (Off-Premise Consumption) use in the “CM” (Commercial Mixed Use) Zoning District (Executive Director of Development Services)

Mayor Hallisey opened the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

David Hoover, Executive Director of Development Services gave a brief overview of this item.

Mayor Hallisey closed the public hearing at 6:48 p.m.

- 6B. 20-0249 Consider and take action on an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of League City by amending Chapter 125, entitled “Zoning”, regarding the Alcoholic Beverage Sales (Off-Premise Consumption) use in the “CM” (Commercial Mixed Use) Zoning District (Executive Director of Development Services)

Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval, 6-1-0 with one absent, on June 1, 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Millican, seconded by Mr. Tressler, to approve Ordinance No. 2020-17 amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of League City by amending Chapter 125, entitled “Zoning”, regarding the Alcoholic Beverage Sales (Off Premise Consumption) use in the “CM” (Commercial Mixed Use) Zoning District. The motion passed by the following vote:

- For:** 7 - Mayor Hallisey, Mr. Dugie, Mr. Millican, Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Gripon, Mr. Tressler and Mr. Long
- Opposed:** 1 - Mr. Mann

7. COMMENTS/REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Announcements concerning items of community interest. No action will be taken or discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Todd Kinsey – We have a few changes at the library. Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays they are open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. On Thursday they have extended hours from 10:00 to 9:00. The Virtual History Club will be meeting via Facebook, Monday 22, from 5 to 6 p.m. Author Kimber Fountain will discuss her book *The Maceos and the Free State of Galveston: An Authorized History*. This program is for adults. Story times every Monday. On June 17, Wild Things Zoofari will share the antics of their outdoor animals. Watch for it on our webpage, leaguecitylibrary.org. These programs are for children. On Wednesday, June 23, discover the history behind different legends and lore. This program will take place via Zoom from 4 to 5 p.m. and is for middle-school and high-schoolers. Finally, as we move into budget, I want to let PD know I won't support any changes to budgeting for our Police Department in the upcoming budget.

Greg Gripon – good evening, like I always say, look out for your neighbors, especially the older ones. Give them a helping hand, go out and do some shopping for them so they don't have to get out to the stores. It's just best to look out for our older citizens in or town. I'm kind of lucky, I have a wife that doesn't nag, but encourages me to wear a mask. You need to wear a mask, it's good to have one of those around. Sometimes it's difficult to remember to put on the mask. I'll get out of the truck and walk up to the grocery store and oh, forgot to put my mask on. So, if we're going to slow down the spread of this, absolutely we all need to work together to slow down this virus.

Chad Tressler – no comments.

Nick Long – It takes an incredible amount of confidence in yourself to open a restaurant right now. As a Greek guy, I was happy to see maybe the first Greek restaurant in League City open in South Shore this week. We went there, it's Café Petra, seafood, bass, affordable, relatively healthy. It's a great place, a family-run place. I encourage people to go out there, I believe they already took the League City Pledge, as well. So, go and support your local businesses.

Andy Mann – This last week, City staff completed the Kansas to Magnolia Creek Hike and Bike Trail. It's now been elevated. Thank you all so much for taking care of that.

Hank Dugie – I want to remind all of you and our citizens that to date League City has the first and most robust effort to encourage voluntary compliance with CDC and State safety guidelines. The fact is quite simply we are going above and beyond to encourage and educate people to be safe, to keep their neighbors safe. I think we got it right when we decided not to mandate what should be a personal responsibility. So, I'd say let's double down on the education piece, the encouragement piece. Keep doing what we've been doing well for well over a month now. I don't know if you saw over the last couple of days, County Judge Mark Henry came out with a statement that the County is going to be putting together a task force, very similar to what we are doing, for the entire county. I know the Task Force looks forward to providing some assistance to that effort. Like I said, I don't think we got it wrong. I think we got it right, but I do think going this route takes a little bit more effort, so we just have to keep putting in the elbow grease, loving our neighbors, educate them. If you're part of our vulnerable population, or you know people who are part of our vulnerable population, just keep that in mind when you interact with them. Secondly, I've been very proud of how this council and police department interacted with local organizers of different protest events and demonstrations. I think that League City is an example to the rest of the state and world on how civil discourse can take place. And I think if we can't have that kind of civil discourse in League City, there's nowhere on the planet where it can take place. I been really heartened by those activities from the top down. I think we all should be proud of that. To Mr. Kinsey's comment, I'm guessing you were referring to you will not support defunding the Police. But I think we talked about funding bodycams and funding training, stuff like that. So, I don't want PD to take that as we're not going to be funding you, it's a we're not going to be defunding you. And I 100 per cent agree with that statement. Bring to us what it will take to keep those bodycams funded, and whatever additional training will benefit the City. We have a great Police Department. A lot of the things that people are clamoring for, our team already does, but if there are ways we can better them, I think we're all open to hearing it.

Larry Millican – no comments

Mayor Hallisey – I called John Baumgartner last night, late and said how impressed I was with the Bay Ridge meeting last night at the Civic Center. I watched it online. I thought great questions were asked and great answers were given. So, kudos to Christopher and all of our Engineering, and John, and LJA Engineering, for standing up there and taking all the questions, not dodging the tough questions that were coming. I think everybody in that neighborhood, at least what I got out of it, is pretty much aware of where we are in that, and what they are expecting to have happen out there. They may erect a statue to Jody because he's such a good guy and they like him. Other than that, good job on that last night to all of you. I give a lot of credit to Gary Ratliff, our Chief, and his command staff for the way they handled these protests. They were put on by children, there was not a big threat to anybody, but they were prepared for anything that could go on, and I thought they did a great job.

The only incident that I was aware of, all I saw was on both sides five or six policemen coming out in front of the Police Station, quietly moving to the back of the crowd where there had been some kind of anti-protesters there, and they closed in on them, and said something to them, and they all got back in their car and left. Most of the people in the crowd didn't see it, which is exactly what you would hope for, it wouldn't be a linchpin to light up the mobs. I have answered over the last week or two, a lot of questions about defunding the police. I've tried to tell each one that wrote me a note, I don't have any intention of defunding the police. They have an important issue in this town and they do a first-class job providing public safety service to us. I'm kind of like everybody else, in the middle of the night if somebody's breaking into my house, I certainly don't call the church for help. I call the Police Department. I may call the church second, but I call the Police Department first. Let's remember to thank those guys when you see them out in public, because they really do a good job. This is not a town, and I've said this so many times it just flows out of me, we're not a town like New York City, like Chicago, like Los Angeles. We are not pressed with racial tensions in this community. We live here and we coexist. It does not seem to be a problem, and I don't want to make a problem out of it. I try to tell people that when they call and say take away this and take away that. I'm not taking away anything, I think they do a good job. A week and a half ago, I had a meeting with 40 church pastors in League City. There were two topics of discussion that day. One of them was COVID-19, an opportunity for me to tell them thank you because, frankly, before we ever got around to deciding what we were going to do or not do, the churches in our community were proactive. They saw the problem and they were protective of their church flock, and they started having their church services online, which gave me an opportunity to go to a bunch of them on a Sunday and see what was being said. I was impressed with them and I wanted to thank them personally for that. I also wanted to talk about race relations a little bit. We had a representative from the NAACP, we had pastors of color that were there. The discussion was honest and open. There was no hostility, and frankly, League City is not a bed of racial tensions, but we have to be aware that it is going on. I think I said at both of the protests that I went out to, that the only thing that separates us in this world is hate. Once we learn how to deal with that and try to get along with one another, we can move forward. I think a good place for us to start on that endeavor is in our churches. We got a good reception from all the ministers. I thank all of them that were there. My little telephone and email have been burning up for the last week about masks. Some of the comments that were read tonight, or comments that I am getting at home, people calling me on the phone, I think we're all scared. Janice and I post the numbers every single day so the people in this community can keep up with it. Just because you have a rule and you have a law does not mean people are going to comply. It is always my issue to start with personal responsibility. If you don't like the fact that people are not wearing masks, don't be part of the problem, wear a mask. If you think masks help you, as the health professionals have said, by all means wear a mask. You're not going to be refused at City Hall or at any business in town by wearing one. If you choose not to wear one, that's your choice too. It's not a constitutional issue. Where that came up was, first amendment rights give people the right to congregate, to meet, and to address their government, and to take issue with decisions that were made.

We'll never deny anybody those constitutional rights. That was that part of it, but not on the face masks. Please be responsible, League City. You're a great town. You have withstood everything that has come at you that I'm aware of over the last 48 years, we are going to get through this. There is no reason to get hostile about this or the marches or any of the other things that are going on. I am always amazed to read on Facebook, I don't chat much but I do kind of keep up with it, some of the things that are being said. They're offensive to me, they're not anything that makes up League City proud. But we're always going to have somebody outside the realm of reasonable that's going to do that. Let's not focus on that, let's focus on the best community we can be, taking care of one another. Be Christ-like, that's what Christians are for and I'm not that familiar with the rest of the religions of the world, but at the heart of it is that we believe in something greater than ourselves. I saw a quote today that said, wearing masks is either prohibited or for by humans, but it will be something we can't see, taste, or feel that will solve this, and I believe that. Put your faith in yourself, put your faith in the Lord, and help one another through these difficult times. There is no reason for us to get crazy about it. I've been proud of this town every day I've lived here and I continue to be that way and I know it's going to be that way for all of you as well. I encourage the Council to speak out positively about the good things that are going on. We don't want to get caught keeping our eye on the doughnut and slip through the hole.

8. REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Announcements concerning items of community interest. No action will be taken or discussed.

John Baumgartner, City Manager – just to echo a few words I have heard tonight. I am particularly proud of the community, particularly proud of staff, particularly our first responders, our police department, our fire department, our EMS folks. We've been thrown a lot the last several weeks between COVID and then the marches, the rallies, and the protests and all that kind of thing. Our staff is no different than the general public. We've had a lot of the COVID issues. Even today as we sit here, we've got several staff members that tested positive. We've got several staff members that are awaiting test results, we've got people in quarantine and so I would like to talk a little bit about the library and add on a few things that Todd said. Our library had a couple of people who tested positive for COVID and it certainly puts our antennas out to what's going on. We're going to change some of our protocols at the library including requiring everyone that goes in to wear a mask now and we will take their temperature when they come in. Returns will only be accepted through drop off. I think that's been the standard, but I think we've gotten a little bit careless with that and started accepting them via hand to hand and that kind of thing. Todd talked about the hours changes. That's really more not because of COVID but for convenience. We were only open for 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday so we added Thursday night and we added Saturday services to that.

We are following a strict protocol for cleaning. We are disinfecting every morning before they open. We are fogging the entire library. Obviously, the safety of our staff is of the utmost importance to us. There is a full list on leaguecity.com. For those of you that the face mask is still offensive to you, we still offer curbside service so you can order your books and get it delivered to you without even having to go into the library. Again, the COVID thing has hit us all, it's hit every department in the organization, everybody still comes to work every day. The ones that can remote in, we let them do that but as you know many of the jobs, the public works, the public safety folks, they have to come in regardless. Their jobs are on the street or interacting with the public. We are trying again to change our protocols and enhance the safety and convenience of both our employees as well as the citizens as a whole. Next I would just like to talk about we're going to have a town meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 30. We're going to do a virtual town hall out of respect for the COVID and that kind of thing. We've done a couple of neighborhood meetings, not quite as broad, where we've done social distancing in the meeting room. We did the one last night with the Bay Ridge folks. About forty or fifty people attended. That may be a little high, maybe thirty to forty and people maintained the social distance but we're going to talk about where we are in the bond program. We're all anxious to understand where we're at. The Bay Ridge projects were the first ones that started after the bonds were approved in May of last year. Those projects are coming together but there is another dozen projects that we're working on so we're going to go over all those and where they are. We're going to talk about the next projects coming up and again we're going to do that through the virtual town hall next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. One bond project was called the Road Design was started before the bond proposition, it was one of the re-investment projects and then tonight on the agenda there's a right turn lane at Hobbs Road and League City Parkway so it's eastbound to southbound, just a minor bottleneck improvement, so the projects are moving. We would all like them to move faster. We've got to go through a design process and it's a little bit iterative so we will talk about all that at the virtual town hall on Tuesday, June 30. As for Independence Day celebrations, we've had some back and forth on this. The City is hosting their annual Independence Day, both the Fireworks Extravaganza, we're going to try something a little bit different, drive in fireworks. Space is limited. We're going to do it at Challenger Stadium. We're going to park cars basically every other space and so we encourage you to stay in your car but if you get out, you're going to have the space between your car and the next car, the next guy is going to have that other space. We're not going to have any bounce houses. We're not going to have any other entertainment other than just the fireworks. The gates will open at 7:00 p.m. and then the fireworks will start promptly at 9:00 p.m. and then it'll be over. Again, it's at Challenger Stadium. Parking is limited. I think it's somewhere between seventeen hundred and two thousand vehicles with the social distancing requirements put in there so if you want to attend so much as it's going to be hot, it's going to be a great day, no rain, I would encourage you to get there early. I think they've told me a bunch of noes. No barbecues, no tents, no pets, no alcohol, no private fireworks, so I hope I don't ruin everybody's fun. We will stream the fireworks live on our Facebook

We will stream the fireworks live on our Facebook page so those who can't go, or don't want to go, have an opportunity to watch them on Facebook and listen to the music that plays with them. On July 4 we are going to do our annual Citizen Appreciation Day. This event will also be drive-in style, with participants staying in their vehicles. It'll be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Residents can decorate their cars and caravan through the parking lot and circle Hometown Heroes stopping at different pit stops to collect prizes, of course city swag, or a sweet treat. There will also be a contest for the most patriotic vehicle. For more information, visit our website.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Millican, seconded by Mr. Tressler, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9A through 9F. The motion passed by the following vote:

For: 8 - Mayor Hallisey, Mr. Mann, Mr. Dugie, Mr. Millican, Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Gripon, Mr. Tressler and Mr. Long

- 9A. 20-0254 Consider and take action on a resolution approving a three-year interlocal agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center to provide services as our Employee Assistance Program provider in the total amount of \$43,084.80 (Director of Human Resources and Civil Service)
- Approved on the Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 2020-74
- 9B. 20-0246 Consider and take action on a resolution authorizing staff to reject all received bids for Invitation to Bid (ITB) 20-Fleet-017 for Petroleum Products (Director of Public Works)
- Approved on the Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 2020-75
- 9C. 20-0256 Consider and take action on a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Flood Control District for installation and maintenance of six (6) Gage Stations (Director of Engineering)
- Approved on the Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 2020-76
- 9D. 20-0255 Consider and take action on a resolution approving the utility conveyance and security agreement with Galveston County Municipal Utility District No. 45 for water, sanitary sewer, paving and drainage facilities associated with the Coastal Point Subdivision, Section 3, and Sanitary Sewer Lift Station and Off-Site Sanitary Sewer Force Main (Director of Engineering)
- Approved on the Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 2020-77
- 9E. 20-0258 Consider and take action on a resolution authorizing a construction contract with Sustanite Support Services, LLC for construction associated with the Davis Road Lift Stations 1 & 2 Rehab (WW1901A) in an amount not to exceed \$795,000 and authorizing a work change directive budget of \$79,500 for a total construction budget of \$874,500 (Director of Budget and Project Management)
- Approved on the Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 2020-78

- 9F. 20-0257 Consider and take action on a resolution authorizing a construction contract with WadeCon, LLC., for the Right Turn Lane at League City Parkway and Hobbs Road project (ST2002), in an amount of \$307,619, and authorizing a work change directive budget of \$30,762 for a total construction budget of \$338,381 (Director of Budget & Project Management)

Approved on the Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 2020-79

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

12. **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

13. **ITEMS ADDED AFTER ELECTRONIC AGENDA COMPLETED**

14. **EXECUTIVE(CLOSED) SESSION(S)**

At 7:13 p.m. Mayor Hallisey announced the City Council will now go into executive session to discuss the following item:

- 14A. 20-0251 Texas Open Meetings Act, Section 551.071 Government Code - Consultation with Attorney
- Consultation with City Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter, to wit: West Side Development (City Attorney)

At 8:10 p.m. Mayor Hallisey reconvened the regular meeting and announced there was no final action, decision or vote with regard to any matter considered in the executive session just concluded.

15. **ACTION ITEM(S) FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)**

- 15A. 20-0252 Consider and take action on consultation with City Attorney, to wit: West Side Development (City Attorney)
- No Action

16. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:11 p.m. Mayor Hallisey said, there being no further business this meeting is adjourned.

**PAT HALLISEY
MAYOR**

**DIANA M. STAPP
CITY SECRETARY**

(SEAL)

MINUTES APPROVED: