

CITY OF BURTON

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A Regular and Workshop Meeting of the Burton City Council at 5:30 p.m. was held on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023**, in the Burton City Hall at 12200 E. Mulberry Street Spur 125, Burton, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Karen Buck

Councilmember Paul McLaughlin

Councilmember Nathan Kalkhake

Councilmember Jeff Eckhardt

Councilmember Macey Tidwell

Members Absent: Councilmember Tommie Gilmon

Others Present: City Secretary Angela Harrington, Utility Clerk Rachel Belvin, Utility Contractor Dustin Lozano

Citizens Present: Melodi Oltmann, Tiffany Eckhardt, Joan Rogers, Jerri Linke, Josh Blaschke (KWHI), Lucas Banda (Banner Press), Jonathan Nelson, Lindsay Bubert, Susan Kiel, Stephanie Jarvis, Sherri Osborne, Dyann White (WCAD), Brittany Thibodeaux and Mike & Melinda Faubion.

Mayor Karen Buck called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A quorum was established and all in attendance were led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Presentations

Tiffany Eckhardt shared her solutions, remedies and/or ideas for the care and maintenance of the alleyway in Block 31 that runs behind Market Realty and residences on N. Railroad St. A brief synopsis of her and her husband's, Councilmember Jeff Eckhardt, involvement in the community was given. She stated that we all want a lovely and safe solution to making Burton a walkable city and using this alley as a gravel pathway or drivable road would contribute to a safer, more scenic Burton.

Mike & Melinda Faubion agreed with Mrs. Eckhardt and encouraged Council to make the alley more useful to those located next to it and to use it as a chance to beautify the city and increase the walkability of the city.

Sherry Osborne asked city council who she should contact regarding a hanging wire on a service pole located at the corner of her property. Utility Clerk Rachel Belvin stated that she would send her the Frontier Communications phone number. She also commented on the importance of making Burton walkable for all.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (1) **Minutes of the July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting & the July 25, 2023 Workshop Meeting**
- (2) **Financial Reports-Revenue & Expenditures**
- (3) **Mayor's Report – Attached**
- (4) **City Secretary's Report – Attached**
- (5) **Utility Report –** Dustin Lozano apologized for not being able to make the last several meetings then reported on HDU's recent service in Burton: 1) moved a meter on N. Main; 2) sewer plant motor went out but he believes it's the bearings so it can be repaired; 3) locations for the construction at the bank were done; 4) a small water leak at AMKIN was repaired; 5) water usage was collected for the last several months for city

hall; 6) the W. Washington lift station is installed but needs a few finishing touches; & 7) he provided the mayor with information regarding a generator at the wastewater treatment plant. He asked about the WWTP Permit renewal and was told that the City has already hired Robin Butcko of Permitting Services LLC and the process has already begun. Dustin also stated that many in the Brazos Valley have gone to a water conservation plan and recommended that Burton do that as well.

- (6) **BBCC Report** – No report due to the July 26th meeting being cancelled.

A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin and seconded by Councilmember Eckhardt to **ACCEPT** the consent agenda.

FOR: Kalkhake, Tidwell

AGAINST: None

The motion passed.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE, ACCEPT, DENY, REMOVE OR TABLE ON:

1. **Approve the Purchase of No Engine Brake Signs and TxDot Required Slip Base Post Systems for Spur 125 (1), FM 1697 (1) and FM 390 (2) at a Total Quoted Cost of \$1652.20**

A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin and seconded by Councilmember Tidwell to **APPROVE** the purchase.

FOR: Eckhardt, Kalkhake

AGAINST: None

The motion passed.

2. **Approve the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit as Presented by Medack & Oltmann, LLP**

Melodi Oltmann passed out copies of the final 2022-2023 audit and walked council through each page pointing out significant items of interest. A motion was made by Councilmember Eckhardt and seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin to **APPROVE** the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit as presented.

FOR: Kalkhake, Tidwell

AGAINST: None

The motion passed.

3. **Approve the Proposed Tax Rate of 2023, which is \$0.28979 per \$100 Valuation, resulting in an Operating Tax of \$0.065182 and a Debt Service Tax of \$0.224608 and Set a Public Hearing for 5:30pm on September 12, 2023**

Washington County Chief Appraiser, Dyann White, informed council and those in attendance on how she arrived at the numbers and that the figures represent the allowable rates without having an election to approve them. A motion was made by Councilmember Eckhardt and seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin to **APPROVE** the tax rate and set a public hearing for September 12, 2023.

FOR: Kalkhake, Tidwell

AGAINST: None

The motion passed.

4. Discussion of July 25th Workshop Outcomes

Mayor Karen Buck spoke on the discussion of the workshop and that the agreed outcome was for Jeff Eckhardt to form a committee to come up with a solution to the competing documents: Resolution 20171211A and Ordinance 20220809. Councilmember Eckhardt was asked if there had been any progress in the creation of that committee. He stated that all 18 “members” of the “Burton Beautification and Compliance Committee” were on it.

5. Approve Resolution 20230808 Revoking Resolution 20171211A Resulting in the Dissolving of the Burton Beautification and Compliance Committee

The mayor read the proposed Resolution to council and those attending. It was questioned why this was on the agenda by Councilmember Eckhardt and it was explained that according to the approved minutes of the July 25th meeting, it was his recommendation to do away with both documents and create a new one. A resolution is a formal expression of opinion, intent or policy that is easily changed or revoked but an Ordinance is law and can only be replaced or repealed by another Ordinance. Councilmember Eckhardt said that the BBCC was looking into creating a 501C non-profit organization and wanted the funds collected by the BBCC to roll into that organization. City Secretary Angela Harrington explained that the money in the BBCC is *public* government money and, according to the Local Government Code, doing that would be considered a donation to a private recipient which is prohibited by the Texas constitution. A motion was made by Councilmember Eckhardt and seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin to **TABLE** this agenda item to the September Meeting.

FOR: Kalkhake, Tidwell

AGAINST: None

The motion passed

6. Discussion on Block 31 Alleyway and the Need to Vision Forward Regarding All City Alleyways (Conveyance, Easements, etc.)

This alleyway was a topic mentioned in the Citizen Presentations. Mayor Karen Buck pointed out that there is a need to look at all alleyways still retained by the city for possible sale and/or conveyance. City Secretary Angela Harrington explained that her research indicates that there are 12 blocks with alleyways north of Hwy 290 and 2 blocks with alleyways south of Hwy 290 to be considered for sale and/or conveyance. Mayor Karen Buck then outlined all activities and communications regarding the Block 31 alleyway that city hall has recently received. There have been emails and letters from residents, complaints made by residents and letters sent out by city hall to residents adjacent to the alley. She continued by pointing out that an aging major water line is located in that alley and that conveyance would not be the best decision at this time due to the need for replacement of the line. She has made contact with Texas Water Development Board personnel regarding how to get this line replacement funded. Councilmember Eckhardt commented that he would like to see something put in the Block 31 alleyway that everyone can use such as a walkway or gravel road. It was pointed out that a culvert would be required at Live Oak to make the alleyway drivable. The mayor said that the expense for this project was not budgeted in this fiscal year and would need to be considered for the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget but that she would begin to research what it would cost to move forward with a pathway or gravel road.

Presentation by Susan Kiel & Stephanie Jarvis Regarding the Burton Chamber of Commerce

Susan Kiel introduced herself and Stephanie Jarvis. She then gave an explanation of the recent and soon to come activities of the Chamber. There are 2 large stone Welcome to Burton signs that have been in the planning stage for a while but these are going to become reality soon. Also, in 2018, Stephanie began working with TxDot to have wayfinding signs put up on the highway letting drivers know what Burton has to offer. She is also working to have signs made to match the wayfinding signs to make Burton's retail establishments and over 30 historic locations more visible for those visiting. Tx Dot and the sign company are hammering out the details on the wayfinding signs. Susan and Steph encouraged all to support the local chamber of commerce by participating in Big Star Texas Night on November 11, 2023. They also asked that, if an event is taking place in the area, please inform the chamber so that it can be posted on their website.

Mayor Karen Buck reminded those in attendance of the coming scheduled city meetings:

- City Council Regular Meeting and Tax Rate Public Hearing- at City Hall on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:30pm

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

FOR: Eckhardt, Kalkhake, McLaughlin, Tidwell
AGAINST: None



Mayor Karen Buck

ATTEST:



City Secretary Angela Harrington

Mayor's Report – August 2023

This past month's activities –

+Attended a Texas Division of Emergency Management Grant Training Zoom (required if applying for grants with TDEM)

+Attended a two-day Texas Municipal League for New Elected Officials Conference in Round Rock (July 20 and 21). Excellent resources and presentations. Connected with other elected officials and city leaders from around the state. All of us were grateful for the chance to connect and learn that we are all dealing with the same issues. Highly recommend this event to ALL future elected/re-elected city leaders.

+Attended a Texas Water Development Board Financial Assistance Program in LaGrange (July 27). This program was most helpful as well as I learned about two grant funds that we can apply for to assist with funding for the new water well as replacement of some aged water mainlines here in the city. I will be following up with the presenter on these funds.

+Have been working with a Neighbor in Need in South Burton as he prepares to move into his new home. Burton Bridge has set aside two moving dates – Saturdays, August 19 and 26 – to assist with moving packed boxes and/or furniture from the old home to the new home. He is to be totally moved out of the old home by August 31.

+City Hall is receiving a high volume of calls regarding private properties with tall grass, dead trees in city right of ways, fencing issues, etc. Angela has sent letters asking our neighbors to tend to their issues as we all try to keep Burton beautiful.

+On June 29, I contacted Dustin with HDU services regarding specs for a generator for the sewer plant. After several phone conversations and an email, as of today (Thursday, August 3, 2023), I am still waiting for those numbers. I cannot proceed any further in the TEDEM grant without them.

+In preparation for grants that I hope to open this fall, I began looking at the city's "Blue Sky" usage numbers for the water well...and began asking some hard questions. As it stands right now, the city's biggest user of water is also receiving that water without charges. We will continue to explore how to reconcile this issue as it is hard to apply for grants asking for money for a water well when we are "giving away" so much of it.

+I was invited to attend the Burton Chamber of Commerce meeting on Monday, August 7. In return, I invited Chamber President Susan Kiel to tonight's City Council meeting to share with us updates from the Chamber.

+A laptop was purchased last month for Mayor use. I am extremely grateful for it as I have migrated past city work from my personal computer to one that is owned by the city and have the ability the mobility needed to take the "office" with me wherever I may go. Have also added USDA, TDEM, and FEMA information for city use.

+A "map" or chart was created on the walls of City Hall in the meeting area for ALL of us to track city projects, funding, and notes about where we are in those processes.

Secretary's "Out of the Ordinary" Report

August 8, 2023

We received a Request for More Information regarding our General Land Office Mitigation application involving the proposed new water well. This is a good sign. All the information requested was collected from Bradley Loehr at BEFCO Engineering, myself and Jill Phinney of Langford Community Management and submitted. Now we wait some more!