

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF RUNNELS §
CITY OF BALLINGER §

On the 5th day of February 2024, the Ballinger City Council meet in regular session at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall located at 700 Railroad Avenue with the following members present:

Dawni Seymore	Mayor
Richard “Rick” Morrish	Mayor Pro-Tem
Ken Manley arriving @ 5:52 p.m.	Councilmember Place #1
Ryan Lange	Councilmember Place #3
Steve Gray	Councilmember Place #4

Staff Present:

Blaine Ross	City Secretary
Lindsey Byler	Assistant City Secretary
Sharon Hicks	City Attorney
Cord Bowman	Public Works Director
David Brem	Public Utilities Director
Ray Cornutt	Chief of Police
Doug Martella via video	Financial Advisor

Others Present:

Jennifer Flores	Park Board Chairperson
Marty Aikens	Pastor, 1 st Baptist Church
Ben Brooks	

- 1. Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Seymore called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
- 2. Prayer and Pledges:** Councilmember Lange gave the invocation and lead the pledges.
- 3. Discussion/Action**
 - Response to prior public comment regarding budget. Financial Advisor Martella presented the FY 2024 Budget Adoption Summary and State of Finances, in response to a citizen comment during the January 8th, 2024 council meeting.
 - On public comment procedure for items on agenda. Councilmember Lange made a motion to limit citizen comments to either the Citizen Presentations for Items not on the Agenda or the Public Comment on Agenda Items other than a Public Hearing. Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 1 with Councilmember Gray voting against.
- 4. Citizen Presentations for Items not on the Agenda:** Marty Aikens, Pastor at First Baptist Church, thanked the council and all city employees for the work they do.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items other than a Public Hearing: Park Board Chairperson Flores covered item 7c.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve Minutes of the January 8th and January 22nd, 2024 City Council Meeting. After a correction to the date of January 22, 2024, Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve the 1/8/2024 and 1/22/2024 minutes. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:

- a. Presentation from Ben Brooks regarding purchase of lake property. Mr. Brooks reviewed his proposal to purchase 195 +/- acres as outlined for \$1,800.00 per acre. Attorney Hicks addressed the wells on the property and would discuss the item with City Council. No action taken.
- b. Lions club, Rotary Club. Reserve Park for Tamalefest October 5, 2024. City Secretary Ross informed the council that the clubs are seeking permission to reserve the park for the Tamalefest. The City Council asked if other locations were considered. Councilmember Gray, who is involved with the organizations would gather more details and make a formal request later. Councilmember Lange made a motion to table this topic. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Item 7b. is tabled.
- c. City Park Board.
 - i. Annual Report – skipped.
 - ii. Upcoming Events. Easter Egg Hunt on 3/23/2024, Circus on 4/3/2024, Hotter than Hell Cook-Off 6/28-29/2024.
 - iii. Grant Applications. Park Board Chairperson Flores asked if grant applications would need to be submitted through the City. Council Attorney Hicks stated the Council should review any applications prior to submission.
- d. SAM.GOV Registration, approving a new Entity Administrator. City Secretary Ross informed the council the SAM.GOV registration will expire on 4/28/2024 and that a new Entity Administrator needs to be named. Mr. Ross suggested Assistant City Secretary Lindsey Gayoso be so named. Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve Lindsey Gayoso as the new SAM.GOV entity administrator. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. City Manager's Report:

- a. Public Works Update:
 - i. Streets and Parks: Public Works Director Bowman stated the warmer weather conditions have allowed the street crews to resume patching and paving. The Lake Park RV spots will re-open in mid-February.

- ii. WTP, Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection and Treatment. Public Utilities Director Brem presented the monthly report. Work at Ballinger Memorial Hospital is continuing.
- iii. Upcoming Projects. – skipped.
- b. Monthly Reports: Police Department, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Fire Department. Police Chief Cornutt presented the monthly reports. Virtower at the airport is now online, training is forthcoming. The backup generator at the FD/PD building that was delivered is not the correct voltage. Investigation as to why is continuing.
- c. Financial Reports and Audit. City Secretary Ross reported accounts payable is \$167,088.00. Through the efforts of City employee Paul Harris, the city has received a refund of \$56,257.54 from Granicus. The tax revenue report was presented.

9. Future Agenda Items – Discuss and Consider: None

10. Executive Session: Council Adjourned into Executive Session at 6:19 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code.

- a. **Section 551.071 Consultation with the City Attorney.**
- b. **Section 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property.**
- c. **Section 551.074 Personnel Matters.**

11. Reconvene and take Action if needed from Executive Session: The City Council reconvened in open session at 7:52 p.m. Mayor Seymore stated no votes or action were taken.

- a. Appointment to Housing Authority Board. Councilmember Gray made a motion to appoint Edwin J. Bender, Jr to the Housing Authority Board. Councilmember Lange seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjourn: Councilmember Lange made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. p.m.

Dawni Seymore
Mayor

ATTEST:

Blaine A. Ross
City Secretary