



Lyndia Thomas, Mayor
Beckie Duncan Hayes, Mayor Pro-Tem
Clara Faulkner, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem
Racquel Belle, Place 1
Carlie Jones, Place 2
Gerald Joubert, Place 3
Stephanie Boardingham, Place 6

Sheyi I. Ipaye, City Manager
Warren Spencer, City Attorney
Amy Anderson, City Secretary

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 15, 2019**

The City Council of the City of Forest Hill met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Lyndia Thomas presiding. The following Council members and officials were present; Mayor Pro Tem Becki Duncan Hayes, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Clara Faulkner, Racquel Belle, Carlie Jones, Gerald Joubert, Stephanie Boardingham, City Manager Sheyi I. Ipaye, City Attorney Warren Spencer, City Secretary Amy Anderson, City Planner Laura Enlow.

A. Call to Order

With a quorum present Mayor Thomas called that meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Invocation – Pastor Patrick Moses-First Missionary Baptist Church

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S Flag and the Texas Flag.

D. Presentation

Mayor Thomas requested the presentation be completed prior to Citizen's Participation. All were in agreement.

Mayor Thomas read a letter from Sgt. Chris Stokes of the Forest Hill Police Department commending the outstanding job Officer Mozqueda and Officer Chestnut did in assisting a family on Christmas Eve.

Mayor Thomas commended each officer and thanked them on behalf of the City of Forest Hill and the City Council.

E. Citizens Presentation: At this time, any person with business before the City Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the City Council, provided that a "Speaker's Request Form" has been completed and provided to the City Secretary prior to the start of the City Council meeting. Speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Council cannot respond to matters not listed on the agenda until scheduled at a future meeting.

Prior to Citizen's Presentation, Mayor Thomas addressed the audience as well as the Council members with the decorum of the meeting.

Opal McIntosh-6505 Evonshire Dr.

- Asked Council to please look at street repairs on Forest Hill Dr. from 820 North.

Pastor Patrick Moses-First Missionary Baptist Church

- Thanked Forest Hill on the relationship the City and the Church has had. Members of the church, to include the Mother of the church who is 90 years old, were in attendance. Pastor Moses asked Council to continue doing what they are doing as elected officials and know that they will be remembered.

Dr. H. Michelle Benson-6900 Rebel Rd.

- Presented Council with two (2) celebrations.
 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. celebrated their 111th birthday. The Sorority was started in 1908 at Howard University and is one of the oldest and largest African American sorority with a vast membership of 300,000 women.
 - Uplift Education opened Uplift Ascend Preparatory in August 2018, but the school was incomplete and they had to move the children around. As of January 2019 the 25 million dollar school was officially opened. Dr. Benson invited Council to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, January 24, 2019.

The following citizens spoke on behalf of Mayor Lyndia Thomas and Mayor Pro Tem Beckie Duncan Hayes.

Rommie Scott-7317 Woodbridge Dr.

Jacki Lowery-7316 Woodbridge Dr.

Phyllis Lower-7316 Woodbridge Dr.

SFC(R) Gary Thompson-1044 Bonanza Dr.

Sonja Coleman-Norwood-6920 Shendandoah Dr. (also addressed the meeting she witnessed on January 2, 2019 that involved Stephanie Boardingham, Carlie Jones, and Gerald Joubert)

Mittie Lester-7300 Stonewall Rd. (also addressed trash issue around her home)

Hattie Manning-6405 Friar Ct.

T. Rutledge-98 Legend Rd.

Rev. Mattie Sibley-1504 Oakcliff Rd.

Charlie Briggs-7317 Woodbridge Dr.

Naikia Hayes-7317 Woodbridge Dr.

Frieda Porter-8111 Lost Canyon Trail

Kim Guy-7124 Nohl Ranch Rd.

Vincenette Henley-1751 Towne Crossing Blvd.

Evelyn Williams-3308 Chancellorsville Dr.

Paulette Smith-5778 Rock Hill

- Presented Mayor Lyndia Thomas and Mayor Pro Tem Beckie Duncan Hayes with the Woman that Rock Distinguished Honorary Woman of the Year award. Ms. Smith thanked them for their impact on others, kindness, compassion, strength and integrity.

Mayor Thomas called for a recess at 8:07 p.m.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting back to order at 8:20 p.m.

F. Mayor & Council Reports:

- Message on Agenda

- Mayor Thomas addressed agendas and hidden agendas. Mayor Thomas stated that they all need to work together, head in the same direction, know where they are heading and have a vision.
- Black History Month
 - Mayor Pro Tem Hayes stated February is Black History Month. There will be an event held on February 7, 2019 at the Civic Center. She encouraged everyone to get involved as it's going to be a great event. She also encouraged her fellow Council members to get involved and show unity.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
 - Council member Jones stated the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade is slated for Saturday, January 19, 2019. They are concerned about the weather and they are currently working towards a Plan B. There are 42 participants coming out to celebrate. All are praying for better weather and will keep the citizens posted.
- Training
 - Council member Belle attended the TML Newly Elected Officials Conference. She stated it was very informative and asked each council member to remember when they attended and what they learned. All should be reminded of the rules set forth by TML and the State and to abide accordingly.
 - Mayor Thomas stated four (4) of the council members obtained their CMO certification. This includes Stephanie Boardingham, Beckie Duncan Hayes, Lyndia Thomas and Carlie Jones.
- Upcoming Election filing period January 16, 2019 - February 15, 2019
 - Mayor Thomas stated that January 16, 2019 through February 15, 2019 is the open period for filing for a place on the ballot for the May election.
- Animal Control
 - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Faulkner readdresses issues from the last meeting. She has met with Chief Dennis, Sgt. Cosby and the Animal Control Officer.
 - In 2018 Animal Control captured, released and/or euthanized 179 dogs, 65 cats, 59 wild animals and picked up 124 deceased animals.
 - In 2018 Animal Control received 1721 calls concerning animals. Citations were issued for 232 of those calls, and 122 warnings.
 - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Faulkner further addressed that the Animal Control Officer is spending half of his time managing the shelter which includes cleaning, feeding and water the animals, maintaining operations. This includes Saturday and Sunday as well.
 - Need to work on getting a shelter manager so that the Animal Control Officer can get back to field work. Although the position is not budget for 2019, volunteers could possible help in the meantime.
 - Animal Control has also purchases three (3) additional traps.
 - Council member Belle further stated that she has done research on the volunteer program Fort Worth has in regards to animal control.
 - Possibly have HR start a program and individuals who are training to be a vet or vet tech could get their credit hours through the program.
 - Council member Belle stated there just isn't enough time for the Animal Control Officer to do his job and it becomes a safety concern.

- Council member Jones stated that Council is taking the issue at charge. There are additional issues with wild animals just not cats and dogs. Safety for the citizens is a big concern.
- Staffing and supplies are an issue as well.
- Council member Jones suggested working with sister cities to get the issues resolved.
- Mayor Thomas suggested having the topic at a future workshop so they can get the process going for additional help.

G. Consent Agenda:

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be not be separate discussion of these Items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

1. Consider approval of meeting minutes for the October 16, 2018 meeting.
2. Consider approval of City Manager's salary increase change for payroll ending January 8, 2019.

Council member Joubert made a motion to pull Consent Item 2 for deliberation. Council member Jones made a motion to pull Consent Item 1 for deliberation.

Item 1: Consider approval of meeting minutes for the October 16, 2018 meeting.

Council member Joubert requested a correction to the invocation. Council member Joubert gave the invocation not Council member Jones.

Item 2: Consider approval of City Manager's salary increase change for payroll ending January 8, 2019.

Council member Joubert inquired as to where this item came from.

Mayor Thomas stated that there had been an error in Mr. Ipaye's pay and the Finance Director noticed the error and brought it to the Mayor's attention. Mayor Thomas felt it was necessary to share the error with Council. The overpayment error was corrected with the January 8, 2019 payroll.

Discussion only item. No motion required.

H. Public Hearing:

None

I. Deliberation Agenda:

1. Discuss and consider approval of the sale of vacant property located at 6232 Hartman Road, which has been struck off to the City of Forest Hill and authorize the City Manager to accept the \$15,480.38 offer (City Manager, Mr. Ipaye)

Mr. Ipaye requested the Council reject the current offer.

Mr. Ipaye has received another offer from a Mr. Salazar of \$21,000.00 for the property at 6232 Hartman Rd. With the new offer the City stands to gain approximately \$8,000.00 opposed to \$2,786.88 from Mr. Lopez's offer. This will be brought as an agenda item in February.

Council member Joubert made a motion to reject Martin Lopez's offer of \$10,000.00 to purchase 6232 Hartman Rd. Council member Jones seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

7 Ayes Belle, Jones, Joubert, Thomas, Hayes, Faulkner, Boardingham

0 Nays

0 Abstain

0 Absent

2. Discuss and consider an extension to prepare a defense on charges made against Mayor Lyndia Thomas and Mayor Pro-Tem Beckie Duncan Hayes. (Mayor Thomas)

Mayor Thomas feels that both she and Mayor Pro Tem Beckie Duncan Hayes deserve time to prepare a defense against the charges and asked for a 90 day extension if it cannot be pulled indefinitely.

Mayor Thomas made a motion for a 90 day extension to confer with their attorneys on the allegations. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes seconded the motion.

Motion failed with the following vote:

3 Ayes Belle, Thomas, Hayes

4 Nays Jones, Joubert, Faulkner, Boardingham

0 Abstain

0 Absent

Council member Belle made a motion for a 60 day extension to prepare a defense. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes seconded the motion.

Motion failed with the following vote:

3 Ayes Belle, Thomas, Hayes

4 Nays Jones, Joubert, Faulkner, Boardingham

0 Abstain

0 Absent

3. Discuss and consider temporarily suspending Mayor Lyndia Thomas' City issued credit card until further notice. (Council member Jones)

Council member Jones made a motion to temporarily suspend Mayor Lyndia Thomas' credit card until further notice. Council member Boardingham seconded the motion.

Motion failed with the following vote:

3 Ayes Jones, Joubert, Boardingham
4 Nays Belle, Thomas, Hayes, Faulkner
0 Abstain
0 Absent

Council member Jones made a motion to suspend Mayor Lyndia Thomas' city issued credit card period. Council member Boardingham seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

7 Ayes Belle, Jones, Joubert, Thomas, Hayes, Faulkner, Boardingham
0 Nays
0 Abstain
0 Absent

4. Discuss and consider a 45 day extension to the Finance Director to complete the City of Forest Hill Investment Report. (City Manager, Mr. Ipaye)

Mr. Ipaye stated the Finance Director needs time to prepare the report and will be available at the first meeting in February.

Discussion only item. No motion required.

5. Discuss and consider action regarding directing the City Manager to create a Request for Proposal to correct the City of Forest Hill drainage issues found in the recent Engineering Report. (Council member Boardingham)

This item was pulled from the agenda until the February meeting.

6. Discuss and clarify the 3% pay raise to all city employees including the City Manager and City Attorney. (Council member Joubert)

This item was pulled from the agenda.

7. Discuss and consider action for violation of the Open Meetings Act on January 2, 2019 on the following Council members; Gerald Joubert, Carlie Jones, and Stephanie Boardingham (Mayor Thomas)

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be sent to the District Attorney to investigate.

J. Staff Report:

- Report regarding update of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Lending Summary of the disaster assistance for the Texas Storm and Flood on September 21, 2018. (City Manager, Mr. Ipaye)

Mr. Ipaye presented the report to Council.

The Small Business Administration issued 99 applications to homeowners. They received 82 applications back and approved 50 applications for a total of \$2,781,000.00.

The Small Business Administration issued 6 applications to businesses. They received 6 applications back and approved only one (1) application for a total of \$287,100.00.

The total amount paid to Forest Hill residents and businesses was \$3,068,200.00.

- Report regarding Sales Tax Historical Data. (City Manager, Mr. Ipaye)

Mr. Ipaye presented the report to Council.

The historical data covered 10 years from 2008-2018.

The years of 2014-2018 sales taxes increased yearly with 2018 being the highest year.

- Department reports for December 2018. (City Manager, Mr. Ipaye)

Mr. Ipaye asked Council to look at the department reports and to let him know if they have any questions. He can schedule a meeting with the department heads if there are concerns or questions.

Mr. Ipaye further addressed Animal Control. In just one month alone, Animal Control collected 280 animals. One person is not enough for Animal Control.

Mr. Ipaye stated this is a budgetary item and plans to address issues with the new budget.

K. RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION –

Discussion of matters permitted by the following sections of V.T.C.A, Government Code Chapter 551:

Pursuant to Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

1. Discuss and consider action on Stephanie Boardingham vs. City of Forest Hill.

Pursuant to Section 551.074, To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

2. Discuss and consider action on City Attorney's contract.

The Council convened into Executive Session at 10:35 p.m.

L. Reconvene into Regular Session.

Council reconvened into Regular Session at 11:08 p.m.

M. Take any action necessary pursuant to executive session.

Council member Hayes made a motion to accept the mediated settlement agreement for Stephanie and Timey Boardingham vs. City of Forest Hill. Council member Faulkner seconded the motion.

Motion passed with the following vote:

5 Ayes Belle, Jones, Thomas, Hayes, Faulkner
0 Nays
1 Absent Joubert
1 Abstain Boardingham

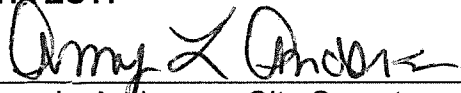
The item to discuss the City Attorney's contract was pulled from the Executive Session agenda.

N. Meeting: Next Regular meeting will be February 5, 2019.

O. Adjournment


Mayor Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

ATTEST:



Amy L. Anderson, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Clara Faulkner, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem and
Acting Mayor