

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSAL CITY, TEXAS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 7, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor John Williams at 6:30 p.m.
2. QUORUM CHECK: Kristin Mueller, City Clerk

Present:

Mayor John Williams
Mayor Pro Tem Richard Neville
Councilmember Tom Maxwell
Councilmember Paul Najarian
Councilmember William Shelby
Councilmember Beverly Volle

Present:

Kim Turner, City Manager
Matthew Longoria, City Attorney
Kristin Mueller, City Clerk
Linda Rose, Court Administrator
Brenda Watkins, Juvenile Case Manager/Sr. Clerk

Absent:

Councilmember Bear Goolsby

Mayor Williams noted a quorum was present.

3. INVOCATION:

Mayor Pro Tem Neville gave the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAG: Led by Mayor Williams.
5. VOTE TO CONSIDER THE EXCUSE OF ABSENT MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS:

Councilmember Maxwell moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Bear Goolsby. Mayor Pro Tem Neville seconded the motion.

Vote: Yeas: Maxwell, Neville, Najarian, Shelby, Volle
Nays: None

Motion to approve carried.

6. AWARDS/PROCLAMATION/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None.
7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Councilmember Najarian moved to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, December 17, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting. Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion.

Vote: Yeas: Najarian, Maxwell, Neville, Shelby, Volle
Nays: None

Motion to approve carried.

8. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None.
9. BUSINESS:

A. Discuss & Consider Resolution 890: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Universal City, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for court fines and fees collection services with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.

City Manager Kim Turner stated that the City of Universal City collects \$1.5-1.7M in outstanding warrants annually. Additionally, there are approximately \$8.5M worth of delinquent warrants. Because it is incumbent on the City to collect the owed funds, Municipal Court staff searched for a firm to help collect those funds. After hearing many presentations, Municipal Court selected Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, & Mott, LLP because they most closely align to their goals. Mrs. Turner then asked Dan Romo, Director of Business Development for Perdue, Brandon Fielder, Collins, and Mott, L.L.P., to give an overview of his company. Mr. Romo said that their firm has been in business for fifty years and that they have three Level 3 Court Clerks on staff to aid with the collection process.

Councilmember Shelby asked how the firm makes money. Mr. Romo said that the service is free to the City. They collect a 30% fee on top of the debt which is paid by the delinquent warrant holder.

Councilmember Shelby then asked how they choose who they collect from. Mr. Romo said they are allowed to search anything over 60 days old through all the way back to 2003. They put the most focus on one to two years delinquent.

Councilmember Najarian stated that the Citizens Police Academy does a great job working to collect warrants but will probably appreciate the help.

Councilmember Maxwell moved to approve Resolution 890. Councilmember Najarian seconded the motion.

**Vote: Yeas: Maxwell, Najarian, Neville, Shelby, Volle
Nays: None**

Motion to approve carried.

B. Discuss & Consider Ordinance 658: An Ordinance amending Section 2-6-18 of the Code of Ordinances to establish a fee to defray costs of collecting delinquent fines, fees, court costs, and other debts pursuant to Article 103.0031 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date. (First Reading).

Mrs. Turner stated that this ordinance will allow for the 30% fee to be added to the delinquent debt.

Councilmember Maxwell asked why 30%. Mrs. Turner confirmed that the amount was set by State law. He asked if the City could increase the percent collected and Mr. Romo stated that they could not collect more than 30%.

Councilmember Shelby asked if the 30% was in addition to late fees assessed for the warrant. Mrs. Turner reinforced that the 30% was in addition to any fee already charged by the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Neville asked why the ordinance refers to warrants that have been dismissed when there would be no fee collected on a dismissed warrant. City Attorney Matthew Longoria said that the ordinance is written to track the State law language.

Councilmember Shelby moved to approve Ordinance 658. Councilmember Maxwell seconded the motion.

Vote: Yeas: Shelby, Maxwell, Neville, Najarian, Volle
Nays: None

Motion to approve carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mrs. Turner:

1. Stated that Ordinance 658 will be on the next City Council agenda for its second reading;
2. Informed that the City of Universal City recently leased 35 Acre Feet of water and that brings the City's total available water to 1.3B gallons available annually;
3. Thanked everyone who donated to the Animal Shelter over the holidays because the shelter reported that they have an excess of toys and about four month's worth of dog food on-site. Additionally, she said that an anonymous donor gifted \$5,000 to the shelter;
4. Introduced a new program at the Animal Shelter called SNAP. SNAP is a mobile truck that provides low cost wellness checks and spay/neutering for animals in households that qualify for the assistance;
5. Mentioned that the 2019 Annual Accomplishment Report is being worked on and will be published in the next two weeks;
6. Invited everyone to attend the Snowfest this year on Saturday, February 15th from 3-9 p.m. and asked that City Council let staff know if they plan to attend by February 3rd;
7. Revealed that candidate packets for the May 2020 election are available to pick-up at Municipal Court;
8. Revealed that there will be a Special Election on the May 2020 ballot for Universal City and that City Council will see documentation for that at the next City Council meeting;
9. Invited everyone to participate in the It's Time Texas Community Challenge; and
10. Reminded that Mike Hoffman will be giving the history of Randolph Field on January 22nd at the Universal City Public Library.

11. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Neville said that he was concerned with the possibility of war and asked that everyone pray for peace. He also invited everyone to attend the Hangar Doors are Open meeting every third Wednesday of the month.

Councilmember Maxwell thanked everyone for the kind thoughts and prayers while he was sick.

Councilmember Shelby made no comments.

Councilmember Najarian asked everyone to keep the military troops in their prayers.

Councilmember Volle said she was excited about the SNAP program at the Animal Shelter and mentioned that participants would need to make an appointment. Also, she mentioned that Pictures with Pets went very well this year and that Tom England made a great Santa Claus.

12. MAYORAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Williams:

1. Invited everyone to participate in the It's Time Texas Community Challenge and said that City Council will be signing the pledges at the next meeting;

2. Announced that the 2020 Census is starting and they are looking to hire people to help collect data and said that some of the trainings will be held at the Universal City Public Library;
3. Shared that he has used one of the new golf carts at Olympia Hills and was impressed by the new features;
4. Invited City Councilmembers to attend the Northeast Partnership meeting on Thursday;
5. Invited everyone to attend Hands N Harmony's grand re-opening on Friday, January 10th at 3 p.m.;
6. Informed that he will be running for one more term as Mayor.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

John Williams, Mayor

Kristin Mueller, City Clerk