



MINUTES
MANOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
105 E. EGGLESTON STREET
MANOR, TEXAS 78653
-
July 2, 2014 · 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor, Rita Jonse
Place 1, Sherri Hooker
Place 2, Gil Burrell
Place 3, David Cruz
Place 4, Sharon Snowden
Place 5, Rebecca Davies
Place 6, Gene Kruppa

ABSENT:

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Shanks, City Manager
Tom Bolt, Assistant City Manager
Frances Aguilar, City Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM IS PRESENT

Mayor Jonse announced that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITOR AND CITIZEN'S FORUM

Jeff Turner addressed Council and stated that he ran for City Council and was elected by the citizens of Manor, Texas in an overwhelming majority of the vote. He further stated that, at no time did he mislead Council or mislead anyone as to why he has not taken the oath of office.

Wendy Boatright addressed Council and announced she was reading a letter to Council on behalf of Lydia Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs wrote a letter in favor of Jeff Turner and spoke on behalf of his passion, generosity and ambition.

Ben Boatright asked Council not to take action against Jeff Turner and that he was elected by the citizens of Manor.

Karen Mazerac addressed Council and stated that Jeff Turner was her nephew and that he takes to heart this job serving the City. She asked that Council listen to the City voters and put him on the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes:
 - June 18, 2014 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve minutes with the one fix for place 4. It states that Danny Scarbrough was present and that needs to state the Sharon Snowden was present by Councilmember Davies. Seconded by Councilmember Hooker. Vote: 7 For – 0 Against. A motion was made to change the vote on item 7 from 6 – 0 to 5 – 1, with Councilmember Burrell voting against by Councilmember Burrell. Seconded by Councilmember Kruppa. Vote: 7 For – 0 Against.

REGULAR AGENDA (discussion and action items)

2. Consider and act upon selecting two Councilmembers to join the Mayor in serving on the Budget Committee to aid the City Manager in drafting the proposed municipal budget for FY 2014-15.

Councilmember Burrell and Councilmember Davies volunteered to be a part of the committee with the Mayor.

Council convened into Executive Session at 7:10 P.M. City Manager Steve Shanks returned from the Executive Session and resumed his seat at the dias at 7:14 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Convene into Executive Session pursuant to Sections 551.074, Texas Gov't. Code, and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, to consult with legal counsel regarding the following:

- Legal issues related to a Councilmember-elect's refusal to take the oath of office and related options, including but not limited to declaring a vacancy in office, removal proceedings, and filling the vacancy.

Council reconvened into Open Session at 8:07 P.M.

3. A Councilmember-elect's refusal to take the oath of office and related options, including but not limited to declaring a vacancy in office and removal proceedings.

Motion to publicly censure Jeff Turner for his actions circumventing the City Charter in his refusal to take the oath of office, with a letter to be presented to Mr. Turner from the Council to be considered at the City Council meeting on the 16th of July, 2014 by Councilmember Davies. Seconded by Councilmember Kruppa. Discussion was held.

Councilmember Kruppa stated the he believes that Mr. Turner knowingly and with forthright knowledge did circumvent the charter and a statement that Mr. Turner knew the charter inside and out seems to be adequate in this case. Kruppa did not believe that misuse of City Council or City of Manor resources, such as contacting the City Attorney prior to being elected, is right. He also doesn't think it is right that somebody that is a signatory on the City Charter circumvents the same piece of legislation for the City. Mr. Kruppa stated the censure is adequate at this time.

Councilmember Davies stated that every time anybody goes out and votes, they are putting their trust in the person they are voting for and they are putting their trust in that person to put City business in above of personal business. Davies stated that Councilmembers should hold themselves to a higher standard. To look for a loophole and find a gray area, to get around the rules is not appropriate that any councilmember should do. She stated that it is not a severe enough infraction to keep Mr. Turner from his council place.

Councilmember Snowden stated that she realizes that the voters voted Mr. Turner in and that she supports that action and that the voters knew prior to their voting that he had this situation with his wife's employment.

Mayor Jonse stated that this needed to be brought to the Council and that it is a Council decision as to what action is to be taken. She thanked Councilmember Kruppa for filling in in Jeff's absence.

Councilmember Cruz stated that he took into account that the City of Manor did vote Mr. Turner in and that's what he is here to uphold.

Councilmember Burrell stated that the City of Manor overwhelmingly cast their votes for Mr. Turner and that he will honor that.

Councilmember Hooker stated that this has been more political than a legal issue. Mr. Turner was overwhelmingly elected to Council. She stated that we should swear him in and not spend any more time on this and move onto City business. Vote: 7 For – 0 Against.

4. If necessary, fill the vacancy resulting from Council action on agenda item number 3.

No action taken

5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
 - a. Upcoming events and announcements

City Manager Steve Shanks talked about the upcoming triathlon on October 26th and upcoming budget calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn by Councilmember Burrell. Seconded by Councilmember Cruz. Vote 7 For – 0 Against.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately at 8:15 P.M.

ATTEST:



Frances M. Aguilar, City Secretary



Rita G. Jonse, Mayor