

5/18/2013 – Minutes

A. CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Buda City Council:

Mayor Todd Ruge, Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Lane, and Councilmembers Ron Fletcher, Wiley Hopkins, Jose Montoya, George Haehn, and Eileen Altmiller

City Council Members Absent:

Haehn

City Staff Present:

City Manager Kenneth Williams, City Attorney Charlie Zech, City Secretary Danny Batts, Assistant City Manager Brian LaBorde, Planning Director Chance Sparks, Human Resources Manager Sylvia Hernandez, and Executive Assistant Isabel Fernandez.

B. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY ON THE CITY CHARTER, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY'S ETHICS ORDINANCE, AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

City Manager Kenneth Williams introduced this item to the City Council and gave a brief overview of the meeting format. City Attorney Charlie Zech then presented this item to the City Council. He briefly reviewed the history and types of City Governments in Texas, reviewed the history and requirements of the City Charter and the City's Ethics Ordinance, and discussed the rules and regulations associated with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

C. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF ON THE ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL, AND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR COUNCILMEMBER INTERACTION WITH MEDIA, SPECIAL INTEREST & ADVISORY GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS.

Due to the absence of Councilmember Haehn, the Mayor decided to defer discussion on this item to a future meeting, without objection. No objection was heard and the item was tabled.

D. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE REQUIREMENTS, QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPOSITION OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

This item was taken first and out of order by unanimous consent. Chance Sparks, Director of Planning, presented this item to the City Council. He gave a report on the status of the City's commissions and difficulties staff had encountered in recruiting enough citizens to serve on the City's various boards and commissions.

After the presentation, Councilmember Altmiller stated that many commission members feel that their service is not valued by the City. She stated that past City practices, such as requiring two applicants before voting to fill a vacancy, discouraged public participation by guaranteeing that some applicants

would be subjected to public rejection. She further stated that there was a significant need for training and support for current commission members.

Mayor Pro Tem Lane stated that it was important to ensure that applicants were ready to serve and fully understood the commitment of board service. He also stated that training for new members should be a priority, and continuing education for sitting board members should also be provided for. He suggested that the City develop a white paper on each board that outlined its duties, activities, and commitments in plain language for potential applicants to review.

Councilmember Montoya then stated that it was vital for the staff liaison to each board to fully brief new members on their responsibilities. He stated that he has seen several board meetings canceled for lack of a quorum. He further stated that he would like to ensure that the City Council continues to appoint commission members as a whole rather than allocating appointments to individual Councilmembers.

Mayor Ruge then asked whether Councilmembers had any preferences regarding allowing ETJ residents to serve on City commissions.

Councilmember Fletcher then stated that the Chairmanship of City commissions should continue to be restricted to City residents, while ETJ residents should be allowed to serve on a limited number of seats.

Mayor Pro Tem Lane then stated that membership had been opened up to ETJ members back when the City was very small and there was an acute lack of interest in serving on City boards and commissions.

Councilmember Fletcher then stated that he was in favor of reducing the size of City commissions to alleviate some of the quorum issues the City had been experiencing.

City Manager Williams then recapped the discussion up to that point and stated that one of the primary issues he was hearing from Council was that there was not enough citizen engagement with or interest in the City's boards and commissions. He suggested that staff could put on a Citizens Academy to educate the public and stimulate citizen involvement in City government, as well as create a training program for current members of City boards and commissions. The consensus of the council was that Mr. William's suggestions should be pursued.

Mayor Ruge then stated that he was in favor of keeping the City's boards and commissions at the current number of seats that they have now. He further stated that future growth would cure the City's problem of too few applicants. He also felt that term limits should be removed for City boards and commissions, especially since there were none for City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Lane stated that past Councils had used the term limits as an easy way to remove underperforming board members, and that eliminating the term limits would require the Council to be more vigilant in holding board members accountable. That being said, he further stated that term limits remove institutional knowledge and should be eliminated.

Mayor Ruge then stated that staff needed to make Council aware of any issues that might arise concerning board member attendance and performance.

City Manager Williams then stated that the direction he was hearing from Council was to: 1. Establish a training program for new and existing board members, 2. Move forward with a Citizen's Academy, and 3. Provide more information on board member attendance and performance to Council so that Council could hold board members accountable.

The consensus of the Council was to accept those items and request a future agenda item to discuss term limits for City boards and commissions.

E. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON LEADERSHIP, TEAMWORK, CULTURE, VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES FROM STEVEN TURNER PH. D. , OWNER OF TEAM AGI.

Steven Turner Ph. D. , owner of Team AGI, presented this item to the City Council. He discussed personality tests the Council had taken and how they functioned as a team.

F. PARTICIPATE IN TEAM BUILDING EXERCISES ADMINISTERED BY STEVEN TURNER PH. D. , OWNER OF TEAM AGI.

The City Council participated in a number of team building exercises designed to help them understand how to best interact and work with one another.

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned.

I certify that the above minutes were approved by the City Council of the City of Buda on 06/04/2013.

Danny S. Batts II, City Secretary