

**Somerville City Council
Regular Meeting
October 13, 2020**

The Somerville City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting, on October 13, 2020, in the Somerville Senior Citizens Center. Present were Mayor Michael Bradford; Alderwoman Debra Coleman, Alderman Delfino Orozco, Alderman Don Murray and Alderwoman Deonna Moses; City Administrator Danny Segundo; City Secretary Rose Rosser; Visitor's Register - on file in the City Secretary's Office.

CALL TO ORDER

6:15 PM - The meeting was called to Order at this time by Mayor Bradford.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Alderwoman Coleman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance followed the Invocation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Lucinda Murphy – Referenced Ordinance No. 20-007 (agenda item 10-B) amending the City's budget to provide for the funding of an administrative assistant position for the police department. She likes the idea but was wondering about a City dispatcher, which is something that was previously discussed. She hopes that is something that could be included in the process. She wanted to know if this was a position that has to be filled now or can this be put on hold for a while? Is our Police Department fully staffed? Because she only saw 4 names on the report. Addressing the job description, she says Council needs to be aware that the ethnic makeup of the City is changing. She would advise that the job description would include that bilingual is very desirable. In fact in the future, bilingual should be included in all job descriptions for the City of Somerville. She has been walking the streets since she is running for City Council. The two questions that come up are "do we have a Police Department?" and "Will our streets be fixed?". She has never been asked, "Do we have an administrative assistant for the Police Department?" She prays that Council will discuss this item, maybe even table it for now.

REPORTS

Police Department Activity Report

Interim Chief Arnim reported on Police Department Activity for the month of September 2020.

Municipal Court Activity Report

Rose Rosser reported on Municipal Court Activity for the month of September 2020.

Public Works Activity Report

Joshua Young reported on Public Works Activity for the month of September 2020.

Code Enforcement Activity Report

Kathy Pollock reported on Code Enforcement Activity for the month of September 2020.

Senior Center Activity Report

Elizabeth Rosser reported on Senior Center Activity for the month of September 2020.

Planning & Zoning Committee Report

Dick Meyer reported and gave an update on the Planning & Zoning Committee Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

All Items on the Consent Agenda are to be considered self-explanatory in nature and may be enacted with one motion, one second and one vote and without separate discussion of each item. However, Council reserves the right to move any item or all items from the Consent Agenda to New Business for discussion and separate action.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES / FINANCIAL MATTERS

Motion made by Alderwoman Moses to **approve** the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 regularly scheduled City Council Meeting; Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Report, Sales Tax Report, and the Accounts Payable Check Register. **Seconded** by Alderwoman Coleman. Motion **carried** by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Bradford congratulated and honored Ron Watson on his retirement from the City of Somerville, Public Works Department. Mr. Watson was presented with a certificate and cake was served after the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:51 PM

- A. Pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the City Council reserves the right to convene into Executive Session(s) during this meeting. The City Council may convene into Executive Session pursuant to any lawful exception contained in Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code including any or all of the following topics.

B. Seeking the advice of the City Attorney pursuant to Section 551.071.

Alderman Coleman made the **motion** to proceed into executive session. **Seconded** by Alderman Murray. Motion to move into executive session **passed** by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Present in Executive Session: Mayor Bradford, Alderman Moses, Alderman Murray, Alderman Orozco Alderman Coleman, City Attorney Barbara Boulware-Wells (by telephone); and City Administrator Danny Segundo.

RECONVENE

7:14 PM – by Mayor Bradford

The City Council returned to open session in the City Council Chamber to consider and discuss taking action on items discussed in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Items

Anita Heights Subdivision / Palasota Contracting LLC.

Motion made by Alderman Orozco to **approve** putting the streets up for bids in Anita Heights. **Seconded** by Alderman Moses. Motion **carried** by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Ordinance No. 20-007 / Police Dept. Administrative Assistant

Motion made by Alderman Murray to **approve** Ordinance No. 20-007 amending the City's budget to provide for the funding of an administrative assistant position for the Police Department. **Seconded** by Alderman Coleman. Motion **carried** by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Declaration of Surplus Property

Motion made by Alderman Coleman to **approve** a Declaration of Surplus Equipment. **Seconded** by Alderman Murray. Motion **carried** by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Ordinance No. 20-006 / Amending Ordinance No. 19-003 / 2018 Codes

Motion made by Alderman Murray to **approve** Ordinance No. 20-006 amending Ordinance No. 19-003. **Seconded** by Alderman Coleman. Motion **carried** by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Ordinance No. 20-005 / Amending Ordinance No. 10-009 / Flood Plains

Motion made by Alderwoman Moses to **approve** Ordinance No. 20-005 amending Ordinance No. 10-009, Flood Plains. **Seconded** by Alderman Murray. Motion **carried** by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NONE

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Alderman Orozco – Reference to bond election, “when approved, it was approved for 8th Street and Memory Lane. The way it reads on the ballot, it says streets, drainage or sewer and streets. That’s very misleading for the people in Somerville. Now they find out only 8th Street and Memory Lane is going to be paved or repaired, they will wonder what’s happening to the other streets. The newspaper, you read it and it has basically the same thing as the ballot but, then at the end it has, turn the page and it has, Memory Lane and 8th Street. To me that is such a back door, if you don’t explain it right at the beginning and it’s not explained right at the ballot, we’re voting for 8th Street and Memory Lane. We do not vote for streets. That’s the way it reads on the ballot which is very misleading. I don’t want people hollering at me about this bond on the ballot that streets were going to be done when only 2 streets are going to be done. I don’t want that to go, you know people blaming me for that. That’s all I have to say, I wasn’t very happy with it.”

Alderwoman Coleman – She said that she thought about that herself. She wanted to know if it was just going to be those 2 streets?

Administrator Segundo – The wording that you are referring to comes from the attorneys.

Alderman Orozco – said that the attorneys could have been corrected to what we are actually voting for.

Administrator Segundo – in the bond election it does say that it is dedicated to those streets.

Alderman Orozco – said it doesn’t refer to the streets that COuncil voted for, it just says streets.

Administrator Segundo- “it’s too late to change it”.

Alderman Orozco - “It’s too late, I know it’s too late, it’s after the fact now, but I’m saying that Citizens are going to be upset when they pass that and they are looking for their streets to be repaired and it’s not. They are going to blame us, well I don’t want to be blamed for that. Cause that’s not what we voted on.

Administrator Segundo – the newspaper has an article that references 8th Street and Memory Lane.

Alderman Orozco - "But see it references that what's on the ballot first, and then when you go to the page, whatever it is 8 or 5 whatever, then it explains and then at the end it explains 8th Street and Memory Lane. But the beginning of the article is just like the ballot. It doesn't say Memory Lane it just says sewer and streets. It says streets. Sewer and Streets".

Alderwoman Coleman – "It says streets. Streets are streets".

Alderman Orozco – "But that's not what we voted on. We voted on 8th Street and Memory Lane. We didn't vote on Streets".

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Administrator Segundo and employees acknowledged long time Council Member Don Murray with a certificate of appreciation and a personalized blanket.

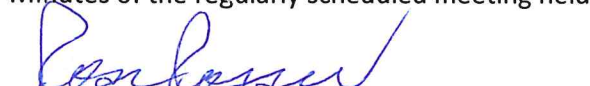
ADJOURN

7:28 PM - At this time the Mayor said that "there were no other agenda items" and adjourned the meeting. He did not ask for a motion to adjourn or a second.

Passed: 11-10-20


Micheal Bradford, Mayor

I, Rose Rosser, City Secretary for the City of Somerville, Texas, do hereby certify that I am the custodian of the records for the City of Somerville, Texas, and that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on October 13, 2020.


Rose Rosser, City Secretary