

ROBIN J. ELACKATT
Mayor

VASHAUNDRA EDWARDS
Councilmember at Large Position No. 1

LYNN CLOUSER
Councilmember at Large Position No. 2



CHERYL STERLING
Councilmember District A
JEFFREY L. BONEY
Councilmember District B
ANTHONY G. MAROULIS
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember District C
FLOYD EMERY
Councilmember District D

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Missouri City, Texas, met in special session on **Monday, May 3, 2021**, at the Missouri City Community Center, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, Texas, 77489, at **5:32 p.m.** to consider the following:

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Elackatt called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Those also present: Mayor Pro Tem Maroulis, Councilmembers Edwards, Clouser, Sterling, Boney and Emery; Interim City Manager Atkinson, City Attorney Iyamu, City Secretary Jackson, Assistant City Manager Martel, Director of Communications Walker and Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development Russell. Also present: Jason Gray with JDGray Group LLC.

2. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

After proper notice was given pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council went into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.

Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 – Deliberations concerning the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee: Development Services Director.

3. RECONVENE

At 5:59 p.m., City Council reconvened into the special City Council meeting.

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- (a) Consider concurring with the interim city manager's appointment of a development services director.

Councilmember Boney moved to concur with the appointment of the Interim City Manager of Jennifer Thomas Gomez as the Development Services Director. Councilmember Sterling seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- (b) Discuss the City of Missouri City Strategic Plan update.

Jason Gray, JDGray Group LLC, presented an update on the Strategic Plan final draft, which included the strategy mapping and alignment, and strategic focus areas.

Councilmember Boney asked when the final draft presented would be accepted as the strategic plan. Interim City Manager Atkinson stated it was up to Council if they felt this was the final draft or not and noted Gray was available to go through the information with them. Mayor Elackatt suggested taking time to look at the draft and asked staff and colleagues to review the material and come back with feedback. Councilmember Emery stated that it was a good roadmap for staff and citizens to know what they intend to do to move the City forward. He also noted there was not extensive reporting to Council and believes it may be difficult to

achieve without capital investments. Gray suggested quarterly reporting so that Council may be aware of the budget restraints.

Councilmember Sterling asked if staff had vetted the plan. Atkinson noted that a lot of what had been presented was developed by staff. He added the document would be made available to staff with a measurement tool in order to keep Council and the public updated. Boney suggested adding this item on the May 12 special City Council meeting agenda. Gray stated he would meet with Council on May 12. Mayor Pro Tem Maroulis was ready to move forward and thanked Gray for his time.

- (c) Receive an update on the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed F.M. Road 1092 median improvement (access management) project.

Assistant City Engineer Davis provided an update on the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed F.M. Road 1092 median improvement (access management) project. Mayor Pro Tem Maroulis thanked TxDot for taking into consideration public input. He believes TxDot should also focus on traffic flow and invest in improvements to make it better. Councilmember Clouser and Emery thanked staff and TxDOT.

Emery stated he was still concerned with other locations in which traffic flow would be disrupted. Mayor Elackatt suggested having a second public input to present this update. Director of Public Works Kumar stated they would do as Council directs them to. Council concurred in having another public input meeting.

Councilmember Edwards asked a question pertaining to item 4b. Edwards inquired if staff had the bandwidth to cover both of the meetings on May 12, 2021. Interim City Manager Atkinson stated they would look into it.

- (d) Receive an update on the City's Fourth of July event.

Recreation Manager Thompson presented an update on the City's Fourth of July event. Councilmember Edwards stated she was concerned with the bands being solicited. Thompson stated they were still in the negotiation process and listed the type of bands they plan to bring to the event. The music genre were: Texas country music, Zydeco band, African Drum Circle and a Mariachi band. Edwards stated she was concerned about spending this amount of money on entertainment that was not suitable for the citizens. Thompson stated with a first year event, they put entertainment out there and analyze the engagement from the community and know if they should keep it on the list for the next year to come. Edwards stated she was not in favor of the MoCity terminology and believes they should stick to their brand.

Councilmember Boney was not in favor of having the Fourth of July event on July 3 and thinks they should stick to having it on July 4. He encouraged allowing the department to focus on quality entertainment and staff doing their job. Boney stated that since there was no tourism manager, they should look at bringing an individual who specializes in special events in place of the tourism manager.

Mayor Pro Tem Maroulis inquired about parking. Thompson stated they would offer shuttling services.

Councilmember Clouser inquired on other cultural experiences that would be offered to the community. Thompson stated they were excited to bring a Bollywood dance school as it would be an interactive performance. She noted they were open to suggestions.

Councilmember Emery inquired about the budget increase and asked if they could see what the additional expenditures would be. Thompson stated she could provide them with the budget post event.

Councilmember Sterling asked about other summer events. Thompson stated they have a variety of events including smaller events such as Juneteenth and summer movie nights. Edwards asked about the

partnership with Houston Community College. Thompson stated the Communication's Department did a lot of groundwork and they have an open relationship with HCC.

Boney inquired on the reasons for changing the date for the Fourth of July event. Thompson stated it was because the event was proposed to end at 10:30 p.m. and would like for attendees to stay for the whole event.

At 7:14 p.m., City Council recessed the special City Council meeting to begin the regular City Council meeting.

At 10:18 p.m., City Council reconvened into the special City Council meeting.

- (e) Discuss and consider contracting 360 Advertising, LLC to provide and produce entertainment for the Fourth of July event.

Councilmember Edwards presented on allowing 360 Advertising, LLC to provide entertainment that would be conducive to the City's community.

At 10:19 p.m., Councilmember Sterling stepped away.

Darryl Austin, with 360 Advertising, LLC, stated he had been doing concerts for 30 years and could bring tourism to the City.

Councilmember Edwards moved to direct staff to discuss a contract in relation to the Fourth of July event in regards to 360 Advertising, LLC, to provide entertainment. **MOTION FAILED TO ADVANCE DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

At 10:22 p.m., Councilmember Sterling returned to the meeting.

Councilmember Edwards noted they were spending a large amount of funds on these events and they were not being targeted to the residents. She added that she wanted to make sure they were spending funds for events conducive to the community.

Councilmember Boney asked if they were fine from moving the Fourth of July event to July 3. Edwards stated it was a great idea to have in on July 3 and asked if the date was disclosed to the public. Director of Parks and Recreation Mangum stated advertising has not been done but that it was common among cities to move the events from Sunday to Saturday. Mangum noted that many surrounding cities were just doing fireworks and the City was planning a festival. He noted they could reach out to other cities to note what their plans were. City Attorney Iyamu suggested they add the item to another agenda to further discuss it. Director of Communications Walker stated the newsletter to be mailed out to 46,000 residents included the July 3 event date.

Mayor Elackatt entertained a motion to move the item on the next Monday council meeting. No action was taken.

Councilmember Emery inquired on what it event would be called. Atkinson stated they would move forward with MCTX Fest.

- (f) Discuss the appointment of the Missouri City Bond Exploratory Committee.

Discussion and action was taken during the regular City Council meeting on this agenda item.

- (g) Consider the criteria for the procurement of executive search firm services for the position of the city manager.

Director of Human Resources and Organization Development Russell presented an overview on the criteria for the procurement of executive search firm services for the position of the city manager. Councilmember Boney inquired the price of a search firm. Russell stated it would range from \$20-35,000. Councilmember Edwards asked if they were looking to expand the platform, other than advertising in Fort Bend Star. Purchasing/Risk Manager Pleasant stated they would use DemandStar which was a national bidding platform and would be seen by their subscribers. Edwards encouraged to extend the platform to get other RFP applicants as well.

The **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION** items were postponed to a subsequent meeting.

- (a) **Texas Government Code, Section 551.071** – Consultation with attorney to seek or receive legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act: (i) proper zoning considerations and (ii) City of Hutto litigation.
- (b) **Texas Government Code, Section 551.074** – Deliberations concerning the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee: the City Attorney, City Secretary, and City Manager.

7. **ADJOURN**

The special City Council meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Minutes PASSED AND APPROVED this the 17th day of May 2021.

Maria Jackson, City Secretary