

**Village of Salado  
Salado Municipal Building  
301 North Stagecoach Road  
Salado, Texas  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Aldermen  
January 4, 2018**

The Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Skip Blancett.

Mayor Blancett gave the Invocation and the Board of Aldermen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Board Members Present: Mayor Skip Blancett, Mayor Pro-tem Fred Brown, Aldermen Andy Jackson, Amber Dankert, Frank Coachman, and Michael McDougal.

Staff Present: Village Administrator Don Ferguson, City Secretary Cara McPartland, Police Chief Rick Ashe, and Fire Chief Shane Berrier.

Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector Shay Luedeke presented the yearly child safety allocation check in the amount of \$2,613.51 to Mayor Blancett, who thanked Mr. Luedeke and Bell County for this check and stressed the importance of enhancing child safety.

### **Citizens Communications**

No citizen comments were heard.

### **1. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of minutes of the Regular Board of Aldermen meeting of December 7, 2017.
- B. Approval of the November 2017 Financial Statements for the Village of Salado.

Alderman Jackson moved to approve Consent Agenda items, as presented. Alderman Coachman seconded. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

### **2. Status Reports**

- A. Village Administrator's Status Report

This item was heard after Agenda Item 2D.

- Status report on wastewater issues

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on today's second meeting with contractors and engineers. He anticipated delivery of executed contracts to U.S. EDA no later than Monday morning. He noted that the treatment plant and collection system contractors will be given notices to proceed on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, respectively. He advised of upcoming field work, construction

activities, and timeframes. He noted plans for environmental monitoring and public outreach on the project, including meetings and an updated website page. He thanked Salado Water Supply Corporation for its help in gathering three years of water usage data to facilitate setting of wastewater rates. He stressed that the wastewater project is being built in accordance with the original plans. Regarding the Stagecoach plant, Village Administrator Ferguson stated that close monitoring continues and the plant will be pumped as need to keep sludge levels down.

Discussion established that communication with property owners is critical to the project, particularly relating to collection system construction, which is planned to minimize negative impact to businesses and traffic. He said a task force will be formed to enhance communication via meetings and other types of community outreach. He spoke of ongoing power re-location efforts with Oncor Electric and of positive movement toward that goal.

- Status report on preparation of the Village of Salado Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2017

Village Administrator Ferguson reported auditors finished up field work today and anticipated bringing the finalized report to the Board in February.

- Status report on the planned update of the Village of Salado Comprehensive Plan

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on working with Alderman Coachman to proceed with forming a group to update the Plan and develop overlay strategies for the highway corridor and historic district.

- Status report on Right-of-way Tree Trimming Project

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that letters were sent to all affected property owners, with very few being returned. He stated the importance of dealing with significant overgrowth issues and explained project details as outlined in the aforementioned letters. He noted that contractors will take measures to prevent spread of oak wilt and will pick up debris from trimmings. He anticipated the project to take approximately one month to complete. Discussion addressed the need to trim plantings in the right-of-way that are creating sight distance problems. Alderman McDougal said the letter sent to property owners was very well-written and an outstanding piece of communication.

- Status report on community survey relating to deer in the Village of Salado

Village Administrator Ferguson asked that Board members submit any comments on the survey, which will be finalized and mailed out by the end of next week. He advised that there will be a 30-day window to respond to the survey and compilation of survey results will be brought before the Board. Survey responses will be coded to avoid duplication and/or reproduction.

- Status report on implementation of the *Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool* health insurance plan for employees

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on a well-received kick-off meeting held earlier this week briefing employees on plan benefits and features.

- Status report on the TxDOT Main Street Improvement Project

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on anticipated Main Street closures during project-related improvements such as drainage, sidewalks/bike lanes, and lighting, which are expected to occur in January-February of 2019. He noted that efforts will be made to mitigate negative impact due to such closures.

- Status report on upcoming Town Hall Meeting

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that a town hall meeting on the state of Salado is scheduled for 6 p.m. on February 6, 2018. Discussion addressed alternative meeting dates/times/locations and preference to hold the meeting at the Salado Civic Center. The meeting will be posted in the event that a quorum of Board members wishes to attend.

#### B. Salado Police Chief Status Report

This report was heard immediately after the Consent Agenda.

- Status report on calls for service
- Status report on on-duty office contact system
- Status report on Citizens on Patrol (COP) Program

Police Chief Rick Ashe provided December statistics on the abovementioned items, including fewer citations/warnings issued, number of arrests, and response times. He also spoke on the success of the COP Program and efforts to raise awareness among business owners of the importance of checking and locking doors. He advised that contact information for merchants is being updated and will be maintained to improve communications. He noted that each on-duty officer is now accessible via cell phone and contact information for the department is posted on new and improved building signage. He reported that the Christmas Stroll went well and no upcoming events are planned in January. Appreciation was expressed for the Salado Police Department and to COP members for all they do to keep Salado a safer place.

#### C. Salado Fire Chief Status Report

- Status report on calls for service

Fire Chief Berrier reported on the number of EMS, fire, and motor vehicle accident calls within the Village of Salado and Bell County. This year's statistics were compared to 2016 and appreciation was expressed to the Salado Volunteer Fire Department for doing an amazing job.

#### D. Salado Tourism Department Status Report

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the tourism director position may be filled tomorrow. He also spoke on a recent positive meeting with Chamber of Commerce representatives and said certain space and staffing issues will be revisited when a new tourism director is hired.

### 3. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposed interlocal agreement with the Salado ISD relating to the development and operation of a Salado Community Garden. *(Village Administrator)*

This item was heard after Agenda Item 2A.

Mayor Blancett advised that this item will be continued until the Board's meeting on January 18, 2018.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposed professional services agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc. to provide archeological monitoring services for certain aspects of construction of the Salado Wastewater Project. *(Village Administrator)*

Village Administrator Ferguson explained the required on-site monitoring of trench sites at environmentally sensitive areas on Royal Street and near Salado Creek and noted the scope of services under the proposed agreement, which is estimated to cost \$8,500.

Mayor Pro-tem Brown moved to approve the professional services agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc, as presented. Alderman McDougal seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Discussion established that there will be intensive monitoring of Terracon's provision of services under the agreement.

- C. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the appointment of members to the Village of Salado Wastewater Impact Fee Advisory Committee. *(Village Administrator)*

Village Administrator Ferguson stated there is a need to appoint four more members to the committee, in addition to previously appointed member, Jim Lassiter. Discussion among Board members resulted in recommendation of the following names as nominees to the committee:

- Ted Williamson
- Joe Price
- Denver Mills
- Jay Rich

Alderman McDougal moved to approve the abovementioned appointments, as recommended. Mayor Pro-tem Brown seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- D. Discuss and consider possible action setting the date, time and place for a workshop of the Board of Aldermen. *(Village Administrator)*

Village Administrator Ferguson suggested January 30<sup>th</sup> as a possible workshop date. Discussion addressed possible topics, the pros and cons of alternative dates/times due to scheduling conflicts, and general agreement to hold the workshop on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mayor Pro-tem Brown moved to hold the workshop on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- E. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposed interlocal agreement with Bell County relating to the provision of animal control services. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson reviewed the existing agreement with Bell County and proposed an annual budgeted flat fee of \$5,000, as opposed to the current “per animal” \$45 fee charged to those citizens who drop off animals at the Bell County Animal Shelter. He offered to present the proposal to Bell County Commissioners Court, which would allow citizens to bring animals to the shelter free of charge. He explained that the County would have the authority to collect drop-off fees for those animals dropped off, in excess of the cap. Information was provided on the number of animals delivered annually to the shelter and concerns expressed by Bell County Commissioner Tim Brown regarding the proposed agreement. Discussion addressed possible alternative “tiered” versus “flat fee” agreements and intergovernmental cooperation to provide a needed service to citizens.

Alderman McDougal moved to approve presentation of the proposed interlocal agreement relating to the provision of animal control services for an annual flat fee of \$5,000 to Bell County Commissioners Court. Alderman Jackson seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

### **Addendum to Agenda**

### **3. Discussion and Possible Action**

- F. Discuss and consider possible action transferring management and operation of the Village of Salado Municipal Court from the Bell County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace to the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson explained that the Salado Police Department is now fully staffed and Judge Don Engleking is agreeable to transferring Municipal Court operations back to the Village of Salado effective January 15, 2018. He advised that two court dates per month will be scheduled, with exact dates to be determined.

Alderman McDougal moved to transfer management and operation of the Village of Salado Municipal Court from Bell County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace to the Village of Salado effective January 15, 2018. Alderman Jackson seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- G. Discuss and consider possible action reappointing Bell County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Donald (Don) Engleking as the Village of Salado Municipal Court Judge. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson explained the need under State law to reappoint Don Engleking as Municipal Court Judge for Salado, as his last appointment for a two-year term was made by the Board in November 2015. Discussion addressed the ability of Judge Engleking to continue serving the Village of Salado, whether or not he is serving as the Bell County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace.

Alderman Jackson moved to reappoint Don Engleking as Salado Municipal Court Judge to serve until December 31, 2018 and to enter into an agreement for provision of services at the existing flat rate of \$500 per month. Mayor Pro-tem Brown seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- H. Discuss and consider possible action authorizing the establishment of an asset forfeiture bank account for the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson advised that an asset forfeiture account would serve as the depository for any financial assets awarded to the Village stemming from certain criminal cases worked by the Salado Police Department. He noted that such funds may only be used for specific police-related purposes.

Alderman Coachman moved to approve establishment of an asset forfeiture bank account for the Village of Salado for law enforcement purposes. Alderman Jackson seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- I. Discuss and consider possible action approving plans for the 2018 Salado Sirena Fest and the proposed route for the 2018 Sirena Fest parade. (*Alderwoman Amber Dankert*)

Alderwoman Dankert spoke of plans by event organizers to make certain changes to the proposed festival and parade route and the need for TxDOT approval as soon as possible, particularly in light of upcoming construction activity. She also provided information on this year's Sirena Fest's partnership with Variety of Texas/Peaceable Kingdom children's charity, including upcoming events and activities planned to help bring a state-of-the-art all-abilities playground to the Village of Salado. She explained features of the all-abilities playground that will help special needs children enjoy park facilities. She said most of the project's funds will come from private donors and it was not anticipated that public funds would be needed. She asked for the Board's overall support for Sirena Fest and the proposed all-abilities playground.

Discussion addressed festival/parade dates and times, street closures, and associated concerns of negative impact to businesses, and possible alternatives.

Mayor Blancett continued this item until the Board's meeting on January 18, 2018 to allow Sirena Fest organizers to discuss the Board's concerns. Alderwoman Dankert noted the positive impact on business activity due to the increased number of visitors here for Sirena Fest. Mayor Blancett spoke favorably of the proposed playground and benefits of Sirena Fest to the Village.

## **Adjournment**

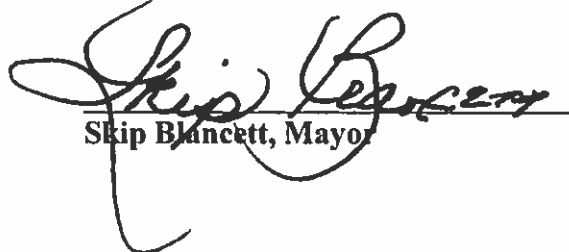
Hearing no further business, Mayor Blancett called the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Recorded by:

Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018.

APPROVED:

  
Skip Blancett, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Cara McPartland, City Secretary

