

**Village of Salado
Salado Municipal Building
301 North Stagecoach Road
Salado, Texas
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Aldermen
January 18, 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 (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), and Michael McDougal.

Staff Present: Village Administrator Don Ferguson and City Secretary Cara McPartland

Proclamation

A proclamation of the Village of Salado, Texas, recognizing Salado High School Head Football Coach Alan Haire and the 2017 Salado Eagle Varsity Football Team and coaching staff.

Following opening remarks by Alderman McDougal stressing the significance of tonight's recognition, Mayor Blancett presented the proclamation to all of the coaches and team members, including a very special award of a "key to the Village."

Team captains were introduced, Coach Haire expressed appreciation for the proclamation and special award, and spoke highly of his players. A photo session was held after the presentation that included the entire team, coaching staff, and family members in attendance. Mayor Blancett congratulated and thanked Coach Haire and his entire staff and team.

Alderman Coachman arrived at this time (6:50 p.m.).

Citizens Communications

No citizen comments were heard.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of minutes of the Regular Board of Aldermen meeting of January 4, 2018.
- B. Approval of the December 2017 Financial Statements for the Village of Salado.

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

2. Village Administrator Reports

- Status report on wastewater issues

Village Administrator Ferguson reported treatment plant and collection system contractors have begun site preparation and materials staging. He advised the rate consultant is preparing models for proposed rates based on three years of water usage data. He anticipated that the Wastewater Impact Fee Advisory Committee will tentatively meet next Thursday morning. Regarding the Stagecoach plant, Village Administrator Ferguson stated that cold weather-related issues have been resolved and close monitoring of the plant continues.

- Status report on May 5, 2018, Village of Salado General Election

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on the upcoming election to elect a mayor and two aldermen. Approval of an ordinance calling the joint election, to be held with Salado ISD and the Salado Library District, is anticipated for Board action on February 1, 2018. He reminded that applications for a place on the Village of Salado General Election ballot are being accepted through February 16, 2018 until 5 p.m. He noted early voting dates/times, which will include two 12-hour early voting days.

- Status report on the hiring of a Director of Tourism

Village Administrator Ferguson reported on a possible announcement regarding the selection of the new tourism director as early as tomorrow.

- Status report on sales tax collections for the Village of Salado

Village Administrator Ferguson reported the January check, representing November collections, totaled \$50,456, which is ten percent higher than the same period last year. Fiscal year to date collections totaled \$156,962, up fourteen percent from same period last year and are running well ahead of budget. He cautioned against comparisons with other cities as a means of gauging the strength of Salado's economy and stressed the importance of looking at historical Village data as a better indicator.

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

Village Administrator Ferguson reported letters were sent out two weeks ago explaining options for property owners. He advised that contractors are being very careful to guard against the spread of oak wilt as the raising and shaping of the tree canopy progresses. He noted that trimmings and debris will be mulched or otherwise disposed of by the contractors.

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

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that one survey per household will be mailed out the week of January 22nd, with responses due back to the Village no later than February 16, 2018. He expected to bring survey results to the Board during March 2018.

- Status report on upcoming Town Hall Meeting

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that Mayor Blancett's Town Hall meeting on the State of Salado is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at the Salado Civic Center. The meeting will be posted in the event that a quorum of Board members may attend. He also noted that an agenda will be posted in the event a quorum of Board members wish to attend the Chamber of Commerce banquet to be held on January 25, 2018.

- Status report on upcoming Board of Aldermen workshop

Village Administrator Ferguson reported the workshop will be held Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 9 a.m. at the Municipal Building to discuss wastewater-related/future development issues.

In addition, Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the Salado Police Department received a grant from the State for body armor, at no cost to the Village.

3. Presentation

Presentation of a status report on the Salado salamander research efforts and the Bell County Adaptive Management Coalition. (*Dirk Aaron, General Manager of Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District*)

General Manager Dirk Aaron provided history and background information on the formation of the Coalition, its purpose, and partnership role in helping successfully avoid the constraints posed by an endangered species designation while preserving environmental protection. He highlighted team research results and accomplishments, including details on partners such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and future phases. Bell County Precinct Two Commissioner Tim Brown also spoke of our local springs and waterways as valuable assets that need to be understood and protected. He praised the Coalition as a model to help with land use issues and to provide direction for research. Mr. Aaron spoke on the usefulness of baseline data to measure and monitor water quality and noted that best management practices have been embraced in the Village of Salado wastewater project design. Village Administrator Ferguson spoke highly of the Coalition and felt that the Village receives a tremendous benefit for its \$5,000 share under the agreement. It was noted that avoiding the need for a habitat conservation plan resulted in significant cost savings for the Village of Salado.

4. Resolution

Consider approval of a resolution approving the action of the W.A. Pace Memorial Park Trustees seeking to modify the trust terms of the W.A. Pace Memorial park by reducing the number of park trustees and providing that the Village of Salado, acting by and through its elected officials, may be appointed trustee, and in the event such modification is obtained accepting the appointment of the Village of Salado as trustee of the W.A. Pace Memorial Park. (*Village Administrator*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 6A.

Mayor Blancett and Village Administrator Ferguson explained that Board action is required to approve the action taken by the W.A. Pace Memorial Park Trustees at their meeting earlier today to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of a petition in Bell County District Court seeking to modify the trust terms of the W.A. Pace Memorial Park by reducing the number of Park trustees and providing that the Village of Salado, acting by and through its elected officials, may be appointed trustee.

Alderman Coachman moved to approve the resolution, as presented. Alderman McDougal seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

5. Ordinance

Consider approval of an ordinance of the Village of Salado, Texas, prohibiting the parking of vehicles or trailers on grass, dirt or other non-paved portions of yards and prohibiting the long-term parking of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers on driveways; providing for severability; providing a penalty and providing an effective date. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson said complaints have been received on parking in yards that pose aesthetic and environmental concerns. He advised that the Village does not enforce deed restrictions, which may be more restrictive than Village regulations.

Discussion included:

- Clarification of the definition “paved” surface
- Possible exemption for driveways that are not paved
- Possible exemption for food truck vendors
- Possible addition of language stating that the proposed ordinance would apply to “deed restricted” neighborhoods and associated problems with adding such language. (For example, unplatted properties may not be subject to certain regulations)
- Lack of “teeth” to enforce deed restrictions by homeowners/property owners associations, specifically Mill Creek Property Owners Association
- Clarification that the Village of Salado does not enforce deed restrictions
- Unintended consequence that the proposed ordinance may encourage on-street parking and cause traffic safety concerns, particularly on narrow streets
- Clarification of the definition of “long-term”

Chisholm Trail resident Christopher Tramel said he understood safety issues, but did not feel people should complain about property owners who pay their mortgages and property taxes, unless there is financial impact or harm to neighbors. He questioned whether a lot of complaints were received and if those were multiple complaints by a few people. He did not believe neighbors should tell you what you can and cannot do on your property.

Alderman McDougal moved to pursue preparing and fine tuning the ordinance, to be brought back to the Board for future consideration. Mayor Pro-tem Brown seconded. Alderwoman Dankert stated that this issue should be dealt by Mill Creek POA and felt that the proposed ordinance over-regulates a problem that primarily affects Mill Creek and not the entire Village. She did not favor

the Village bearing the financial responsibility to take this matter to court and felt this responsibility should be borne by the POA.

Motion carried on a vote of 4-1. Alderwoman Dankert voted against.

Mayor Blancett requested that this item be placed on the Board's special workshop meeting agenda for January 27, 2018.

6. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action authorizing the Village of Salado's continued participation in the Bell County Adaptive Management Coalition for Fiscal Year 2018. (*Dirk Aaron, General Manager of Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 3.

Village Administrator Ferguson advised that this item requires Board action to authorize the Village's continued participation in the Coalition by approving the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Interlocal Agreement.

Mayor Pro-tem Brown moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2018 Interlocal Agreement with the Bell County Adaptive Management Coalition. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposed concept for a new sculpture by local sculptor Troy Kelley. (*Troy Kelley, Sculptor*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 5.

Troy Kelley described the proposed sculpture's design and materials. He noted that no Village funds are required for the project, which would be completed with private funding. Brief discussion addressed possible vandalism issues. Mr. Kelley displayed a book entitled *Mermaids of the World* that included mention of Sirena of Salado, which he said is good advertising for the Village of Salado. He praised Sirena Fest organizers for their dedication in raising awareness and contributions to the Village.

Alderman Coachman moved to approve the proposed concept for a new sculpture by local sculptor Troy Kelley, as presented. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- C. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the plans for the 2018 Sirena Fest and the route for the 2018 Sirena Fest Parade. (*Alderwoman Amber Dankert*)

Sirena Fest organizer Tiffany Schreiner-Humphrey spoke of her long history as a Salado resident and hoped the success of Sirena Fest helped the recent boost in the Village's sales tax collections. She spoke of this year's partnership with Variety Children's Charity of Texas/Peaceable Kingdom to help raise funds for an all-abilities playground for the Village of Salado. She highlighted

planned activities for Sirena Fest and provided information on the Sirena Fest Parade route and associated street closures.

Alderman McDougal asked Ms. Schreiner-Humphrey if the merchants and Chamber of Commerce have been involved in Sirena Fest/Parade plans and Ms. Humphrey responded that she would welcome input and collaboration from the Chamber, which has helped in past years. There was brief discussion of parade-related street closures and number of visitors brought in by Sirena Fest events.

Mayor Pro-tem Fred Brown moved to approve the plans for the 2018 Sirena Fest and route for the 2018 Sirena Fest Parade, as presented. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- D. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to designate the Village of Salado as the responsible entity for the Salado Art and Cultural District. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson explained that the Public Arts League of Salado (PALS) requested that the Village become the responsible entity for the newly created Salado Art and Cultural District due to a Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) requirement that the responsible entity have at least \$45,000 in funding available, if needed, for District-related activities. As PALS does not have the ability to meet this funding requirement, the Village is being asked to serve as the responsible entity. He noted that approval of this item does not obligate the Village to spend any funds at this time, and said that if needed, the Village has the ability to draw on some Hotel Occupancy Tax funds.

Mayor Blancett noted that PALS worked hard to get the Salado Art and Cultural District designation and asked that the Board discuss this further at its next regular meeting on February 1, 2018.

Alderwoman Dankert moved to continue this item until the Board's regular meeting on February 1, 2018, as recommended by Mayor Blancett. Alderman Jackson seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- E. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to waive the fees for future burn permits secured by the Salado Volunteers. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson stated that the Salado Volunteers are performing community services as volunteers and felt that waiving the \$20 burn permit fee serves an adequate public purpose.

Discussion addressed who makes up this volunteer group, concerns about waiving the fee for one group only, work performed by the volunteers on public/private properties, burn permit regulations generally, and possible creation of a register of volunteer/non-profit organizations recognized by the Village of Salado.

Mayor Pro-tem Brown moved to approve waiving the fees for future burn permits secured by the Salado Volunteers. Alderwoman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-1-1, with Alderman McDougal voting against and Alderman Coachman abstaining.

Adjournment

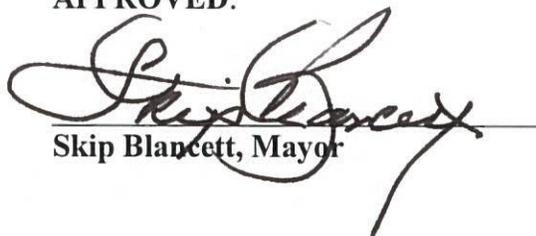
Hearing no further business, Mayor Blancett called the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Recorded by:

Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 1st of February, 2018.

APPROVED:


Skip Blancett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cara McPartland, City Secretary

