

Village of Salado
Salado Municipal Building
301 North Stagecoach Road
Salado, Texas
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Aldermen
September 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

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 Michael Coggin, Aldermen Rodney Bell, Amber Preston Dankert, and John Cole. (*The meeting was conducted via videoconference.*)

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

1. Citizens Communications

No citizen comments were heard.

2. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of minutes of the Regular Board of Aldermen meeting of August 6, 2020.
- B. Approval of elections services contract between Bell County Elections Officer and the Village of Salado relating to conducting the November 3, 2020 General Election.
- C. Approval of July 2020 Financial Statements for the Village of Salado.

Alderman Bell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Alderman Dankert seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

3. Village Administrator's Report

- Village of Salado Wastewater System

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that a workshop is planned for September 17, 2020 relating to unconnected properties and future system connections.

- Village of Salado Sales Tax Collections

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the Village's sales tax check is expected to arrive next week.

- Main Street Improvement Project

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that TxDOT's contractor is resolving end-of-project issues with street light circuitry, railing fabrication, and replacing dead grass.

- Thomas Arnold Bridge Railing Project

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that a pre-construction meeting was held and delivery of the railings is anticipated in the next 45-60 days, with installation expected to take about 10 days.

- Village of Salado COVID-19 Incentive Project

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that a handful of businesses have visited with the business resource center counselor. He noted that two businesses have applied for and received sales tax refunds under the incentive project. He stated Bell County is launching new grant program for businesses throughout the county and advised details will be provided on the Village's website.

- Salado Salamander Coalition

Village Administrator Ferguson reported that the coalition reached consensus to not expand the scope of services for the consultant to include participation in Texas Parks & Wildlife's process to assess and update the status of the salamander species.

Discussion addressed TxDOT's correction of street light issues with little disturbance to completed areas; odor control system options for wastewater lift stations; Sanctuary/Rosamond/Carothers development activity; street light testing timeframe and ceremonial lighting; cost of grant-funded Thomas Arnold Bridge railing, with any overruns to be covered by TxDOT; 90- to 120-day review permitting process before creek cleanout; tree trimming; meetings scheduled to discuss possible development options for the property formerly occupied by Dairy Queen; TxDOT's reasoning for waiting to order railings at the end of the project; finalization of crosswalks/railings; and obtaining a punch list from TxDOT.

4. Public Hearing

Hold a public hearing regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget for the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson provided an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget and procedures for budget/tax rate hearing and approval. Highlights included total budget amount of approximately \$1,500,000; funding allocated for street improvements; capital projects; park improvements; projected revenues such as permit fees; Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue; wastewater operating budget (no rate increases); proposed ad valorem tax rates (.3319 debt service

Mayor Blancett explained public hearing procedures and opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. Hearing no public comments after three calls for speakers, Mayor Blancett closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

5. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider issues regarding the development of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget for the Village of Salado. (*Village Administrator; this is a discussion item; no action will be taken*)

Village Administrator Ferguson explained this item is for discussion only. He spoke of interest expressed in assessing public safety personnel salaries and compensation and said there may be value in an overall compensation study for all employees to help with any misunderstanding surrounding fair and comparable salaries. Alderman Dankert said the Village needs to remain competitive to get and keep the best employees. He spoke of renewed interest in locating the proposed all-abilities playground at Pace Park to replace the old playground facilities and of possible grant funding opportunities that may help fund other amenities such as a splash pad. Mayor Pro-tem Coggin requested that the \$50,000 allocated for Pace Park parking lot improvements be allocated for the parking lot and playground. He asked for adequate and easily accessible restroom facilities to be provided for the Stroll event.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the proposed Maintenance and Operation and Debt Service Ad Valorem Tax Rates for the 2020 Tax Year and authorizing publication of the proposed rates. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson explained the statutory requirement for governing bodies to authorize publication of the proposed tax rate by a record vote. He stressed this item is not to approve the tax rate, but to authorize its publication in public notices. He advised the public hearing on the tax rate is scheduled for September 17, 2020, with adoption to be considered following the public hearing. Discussion addressed publication of the tax notice prior to the hearing and whether the tax rate can be increased or decreased subsequent to publication, should there be changes to the proposed budget.

Alderman Bell moved to approve, by a record vote, the proposed tax rate of .5339 (per \$100 property valuation), consisting of a .2020 Maintenance and Operation tax rate and a .3319 Debt Tax rate to be published in accordance with the law. Alderman Cole seconded. Motion carried on a vote as follows: Alderman Dankert, aye; Alderman Bell, aye; Alderman Cole, aye; and Mayor Pro-tem Coggin, aye. Motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

- C. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to restrict golf cart traffic on Williams Road. (*Village Administrator*)

Village Administrator Ferguson asked for Board input on this issue, as the Board recently approved setting a 35 mile per hour prima facie speed limit and a 20 mile per hour school zone speed limit on Williams Road.

Discussion addressed impact of golf cart traffic, driven by students or parents, on safety and mobility, as crossings would occur at the low water bridge and under IH-35; possibility of working with Salado ISD Superintendent Novotny to prohibit golf carts being driven to its campuses by parents or students; use of golf carts within the new Eagle Heights subdivision, which should not

be impacted by restrictions limited to Williams Road; status of West Village Road as a Bell County road; impact of new junior high school on Thomas Arnold Road and Salado School Road traffic; safety comparisons of golf cart drivers to cyclists; restricting golf cart traffic year-round on Williams Road versus restricting during the school year; and possibility of future grant funding for sidewalks and cart/bike paths wide enough for golf carts or bicycles.

Alderman Bell moved to direct Village Administrator Ferguson to work with Salado ISD on recommendations in order to draft an ordinance based on tonight's discussion. Alderman Cole seconded. Discussion continued on possible future development, reasoning for allowing golf carts on the west side of IH-35, and rules for golf cart use in developments on the west side of IH-35.

Motion carried on a vote of 3-1. Alderman Cole voted against.

Before adjourning, it was noted that the Board's next meeting on September 17th, which includes the public hearing the Village's tax rate, will be conducted in-person with appropriate precautions, rather than virtually.

Adjournment

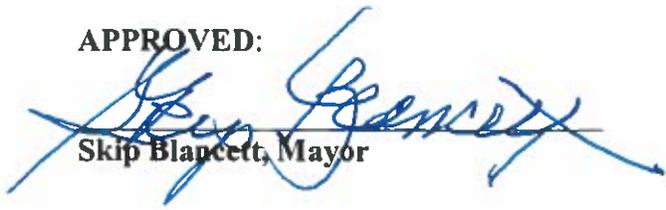
Alderman Cole moved to adjourn. Alderman Dankert seconded. Mayor Blancett called the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Recorded by:

Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 17th of September, 2020.

APPROVED:


Skip Blancett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cara McPartland, City Secretary

