



# City Of Seagraves

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## Regular Session

### Seagraves City Council

### Minutes

July 13, 2020 – 6:00 P.M

Meeting held by means of videoconferencing a recording is available on request.

**Guests:** Renee Goodger, Carol Mahler, Rick Vasquez, Brandon Mahler

- 1) **Call to Order-Announce Quorum:** 06:02PM
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance:** Dan Grife
- 3) **Invocation:** Charles Evans
- 4) **Roll Call:** Shannon Wadzeck(ABSENT), Debra Middleton, Charles Evans, Cindy Durham, Kendra Sellers, Ruben Valles
- 5) **Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:** Alderman Middleton asked the mayor to direct that an addition be made to the discussion regarding the consent agenda item involving the chamber of commerce billing. The Mayor directed that the statement “The city council directed the director of public works to stop the billing and to maintain the grounds” be added. Alderman Durham motioned to approve the minutes of 06-08-20 with the correction added and to approve the minutes of 06-15-20, Second by Alderman Middleton. Motion passed as recorded. Alderman Sellers-aye, Alderman Durham-aye, Alderman Valles-aye, Alderman Middleton-aye.
- 6) **Discussion Regarding a Zoning Board:** Mayor Evans began by stating that the city should seek volunteers for the zoning board appointment. He suggested that a notice be posted to the website and that any who volunteered should be vetted. He said that the council should look for qualified people and said that Mr. Lerma and Mr. Cantwell had already expressed an interest in serving on the board. Alderman Middleton asked the secretary if there were any guidelines. The secretary said that there were none he was aware of. Mayor Evans said the he recalled the recruitment of the previous board and said that there was no organization. He said the people who served did their best but, there was no roadmap. Alderman Middleton said the council should look at the zoning ordinance of other towns about the same size as Seagraves. Mayor Evans said that is what had happened the last time and that our ordinance was based on the ordinance from Tahoka. Alderman Middleton asked if the Tahoka ordinance was used as a guideline. The Mayor said that the city took Tahoka’s and changed the name of the town but, few other changes were made. The City Secretary suggested the council visit Franklin Publishing’s website where codes of ordinance from cities all over Texas her available

to study. Search Texas cities with a population between 2 and 3 thousand and then look up their ordinance. Alderman Sellers said that the council should set timelines and act expeditiously. Alderman Durham suggested posting a call on the water bills or sending a letter to the citizens asking for volunteers. Alderman Middleton said that the council should try to choose the best candidates. Alderman Sellers suggested that each Alderman choose a candidate and put that person forward at the next meeting. Alderman Sellers said that she would volunteer to put together guidelines. Mayor Evans said that each alderman should choose a candidate and put that person forward for consideration at the next meeting. The City Secretary asked for clarification and if the Mayor meant that each alderman was to choose from their respective district. The Mayor said it was what he meant.

- 7) **Discussion Regarding Waste-Water Rate Adjustment:** Mayor Evans addressed the council saying that this rate adjustment must be enacted but the issue is open for discussion. The Mayor said the customers will not be happy but, the city must move to buy the land and put the rates in place as soon as possible. The Mayor asked if the council had reviewed the rate study done by Communities Unlimited and if they were aware that the Mahler estate had been probated allowing the sale to commence. Alderman Middleton said that although she had missed the rate study presentation by Mr. Nill, she believes that enacting the rates is needed and should be done. Mayor Evans pointed out the fact that the rate structure being considered is the lowest possible increase to service the bond and maintain reserves. The Mayor said that the council must inform the citizens that the rate increase will be going into effect and the reasons for enacting it at this time. Alderman Middleton motion to enact the rate increase as written, Second by Alderman Durham. Motion passed as recorded. Alderman Sellers-aye, Alderman Durham-aye, Alderman Valles-aye, Alderman Middleton-aye.
- 8) **Consent Agenda:** Alderman Durham addressed an item in the report of the City Secretary pertaining to the opinion letter from the Municipal Attorney concerning (Tex. Const. Art. III, Sec. 52 and Art. XI, Sec. 3.) wherein the Municipal Attorney provided a summary answer; *The City may spend general fund revenues for the purpose of paying for the vaccinating, spaying, and neutering of animals picked up by animal control provided that a majority of the City Council believes that doing so accomplishes a public purpose.* The Alderman canvassed the council regarding the establishment of a fund to provide for the cost of vaccinations for animals in the control of the city that are unclaimed and are made available for adoption. The council agreed to establish such a fund. By a vote of 4-0. Alderman Durham reminded the council that an annual amount of \$3,600.00 was added to an expense account during the last budget cycle for this purpose. The Secretary suggested that a dedicated expense account be added to the administrative budget for this purpose and that a resolution be adopted as evidence of the purpose to provide a public benefit. The Mayor so directed. Alderman Valles asked about staffing at the police department and if the Chief was on duty on July 04. The Chief said that he was not on duty that day and that only one officer was working at that time. The Chief also said he had hired another officer who was in training but should be able to begin patrolling by the end of July. Alderman Sellers asked the director of public works to explain the circumstances surrounding the recent boil water notice. The Director said that the SCADA system suffered a lightning strike and when the system was installed a shutoff to the pumps. Subsequently the battery packs ran down, and the storage tanks ran dry necessitating the boil water action. The Alderman asked why the problem went undetected all weekend. The Director said that the on-call operator was in quarantine and the absence got by her. Alderman Sellers said that the

department would have to do better in future. The Director agreed and said that many hard lessons had been learned in the incident. Alderman Middleton asked the director how many hires had been made this summer. The director replied that 4 workers had been hired and named them. The Director said that one full-time hire was needed but that the summer help made up for it. The Mayor called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Durham motion to accept the consent agenda, Second by Alderman Sellers. The motion passed as recorded. Alderman Sellers-aye, Alderman Durham-aye, Alderman Valles-aye, Alderman Middleton-aye.

9) **Public Comment:** None.

10) **NEW BUSINESS:** Alderman Middleton would like to begin the budget process as soon as possible and suggested July 27<sup>th</sup> as deadline for the department requested budgets to be turned in to the secretary. She suggested that budget workshop meetings begin on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

11) **Set date and time for the next regular session:** august 10, 2020 at 06:00PM via teleconference.

12) **Adjourn:** Alderman Sellers motion to adjourn. Alderman Valles second. Meeting adjourned 07:45PM

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**Charles Evans, Mayor**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City Secretary (Dan Grife)**