



**MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF THE
BENBROOK CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Benbrook City Council was held on February 18, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with the following Council members present:

Jerry Dittrich, Mayor
Renee Franklin-via Telephone Conference
Larry Marshall- via Telephone Conference
Dustin Phillips-via Telephone Conference
Alfredo Valverde-via Telephone Conference
Laura Mackey-via Telephone Conference
Jason Ward-via Telephone Conference

Also Present:

Andy Wayman, City Manager
Jim Hinderaker, Assistant City Manager
Wes Cooper, Assistant IT Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p. m. by Mayor Jerry Dittrich.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

Mayor Dittrich paused the meeting for citizen comments on any agenda item via telephone call. There were no callers.

III. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 4, 2021

Motion by Dr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Phillips approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 4, 2021.

Vote on the Motion by Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Franklin, Dr. Marshall, Mr. Phillips, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Valverde, Ms. Mackey, Mr. Ward

Noes: None

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER

A. CONTRACT

C-338 Approve Contract with Tarrant Regional Water District to purchase raw water to irrigate Dutch Branch Park

Jim Hinderaker gave the following report: In February 2009, the City of Benbrook (City) entered into a ten (10) year contractual agreement with the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) to purchase untreated lake water (raw water) to irrigate portions of Dutch Branch Park. Previously, the City purchased treated water from the Benbrook Water Authority (BWA) at a much higher rate. The contract expired February 2019, but TRWD has continued to honor the terms of the agreement. TRWD now seeks to renew the agreement.

The proposed contract is substantially unchanged from the previous agreement and again allows the City to open an existing metered water tap and fill the irrigation "duck" pond to meet the City's irrigation needs.

The proposed FY 2021 water payment rate is \$1.25448 per 1,000 gallons, subject to annual changes. This is the same rate TRWD charges the City of Fort Worth for its out-of-district water sales. As before, the City's purchase of raw water from TRWD rather than treated water from the BWA results in significant yearly cost savings. Last year, the City purchased approximately 1.87 million gallons of water from TRWD at a total cost of \$2,358.25. Purchasing the same quantity of water from BWA is estimated to have cost the City \$11,005, based on its Commercial Service Rates.

No changes to existing infrastructure and metering equipment are necessary. The term of the proposed contract is for ten years. The effective date will begin when the contract is signed by TRWD's authorized representative.

Motion by Dr. Marshall, seconded by Ms. Franklin to approve the contract with Tarrant Regional Water District to purchase raw water to irrigate Dutch Branch Park.

Vote on the Motion

Ayes: Dr. Marshall, Mr. Phillips, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Valverde, Ms. Mackey, Mr. Ward, Ms. Franklin

Noes: None

Motion carried unanimously.

V. INFORMAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Dittrich paused the meeting for any informal citizen comments via telephone conference. There were no callers.

VI. COUNCIL MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Renee Franklin expressed condolences to the family of Keith Bailey over his passing this week. Mr. Bailey served the City as a former Planning and Zoning Member, Former City Councilmember, and current member of the Benbrook Police Civil Service Commission. He had a loving and kind soul and will be missed. Thoughts and prayers go out to his wife June and the entire Bailey family.

Ms. Franklin expressed thanks to the Benbrook residents, businesses, Churches, Civic organizations, and City Staff for the outpouring of kindness and compassion during this week's unprecedented events. To quote a passage on Facebook "Residents of Benbrook are amazing Texans who are more than willing to help out. Benbrook you truly embody the Hometown Spirit."

Councilmember Dustin Phillips thanked City Staff for a phenomenal job during this time. Staff is never given enough credit and they really stepped up and Benbrook is very lucky to have our Staff.

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Marshall added to the comments regarding Keith Bailey. Mr. Bailey was retired from the Air Force where he sacrificed his time and life serving our Country besides serving our City so effectively.

Assistant City Manager, Jim Hinderaker gave report on COVID-19.

City Manager, Andy Wayman provided a recap on the weather we have experienced this week and the City's response to those events.

Power -

- Most of the power in Benbrook has been restored.
- The power failures in Benbrook and across the Metroplex and state were reportedly caused by a state-wide power grid failure, inadequate power generation and localized transmission system issues. The *Electric Reliability Council of Texas* (ERCOT) is the state organization that oversees power in Texas.
- The state-wide power outage has impacted 100s upon 100s of cities in Texas and likely each of the 41 cities in Tarrant County. Millions upon millions of customers were without power.
- During this event, the City has been in contact with both state and local leadership advocating for power restoration for our citizens.
- As a result of the power outage, the City of Benbrook worked with several local churches to open warming centers and provide a place for our citizens to spend the night. Over 50 citizens ended up sleeping at these warming centers. The centers are now closed as citizens have returned home. We can reopen the warming centers very quickly if the need arises. A big thank you to the churches, businesses and volunteers who stepped up to help.

Water -

- The Benbrook Water Authority reports that water service has been restored to most of Benbrook and the water boil order has been rescinded.

Refuse Service -

- Garbage collection only will occur on Saturday. There is no bulk or recycling collection on Saturday. Normal service resumes next week.

Street activities -

- City of Benbrook employees have been sanding bridges, overpasses, and hills. TxDOT has also been engaged in these same activities.

Public Safety -

- During this event, Benbrook has continued to provide public safety services without interruption.

I want to thank all our employees for assisting during this event. I especially want to thank our police, fire, and field service employees for braving the cold and sometimes dangerous conditions to serve our citizens.

Building Permits -

Our building permits staff will be in the office starting tomorrow to assist in answering calls and to facilitate permits related to weather caused plumbing issues.

Communication -

- The City has primarily utilized social media to communicate with our citizens. This venue is clearly our most effective tool to reach large numbers of people quickly. It also provides real time flexibility as conditions change. During events like this, we ask that all citizens monitor the City of Benbrook's Facebook page for condition updates. According to our Facebook analytics, one of our posts on warming centers reached nearly 25,000 people, a number greater than our current population.

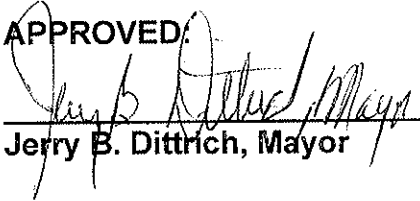
I thank all our citizens for their spirit of community during this difficult time. Please know that the City of Benbrook is here to serve and help you. Most importantly, the weather is supposed to improve starting tomorrow.

Mayor Jerry Dittrich expressed condolences to the Bailey Family. Mr. Bailey was vital to our community and City. As a great volunteer, Keith attended most City events with his spirit and dedication.

Mayor Dittrich expressed appreciation to City employees that had to brave the weather and work outside during this event. It was amazing to see our vehicles up and down the street with people working even though it was very cold. To our Police, Fire and Field Service workers, the City owes you a debt of gratitude. To the City Hall Staff that continued to work to keep things organized, thank you for doing your jobs. To the citizens that took in other families that needed shelter and provided a warm place and meals, that speaks a lot about you and our City. Thank you to the citizens for being patient with us as we tried to continue to provide basic services to you.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:


Jerry B. Dittrich, Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna King, City Secretary