

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW OF WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 25, 2015**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Frank Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Certification of Quorum**

Roll Call of the Quorum was completed by City Secretary Janie Willman. The following City Council Members were present: Mayor Frank D. Jackson, Council Member Jonathan Miller, Council Member Jonathon Randle, Council Member Marie Herndon, and Council Member Paulette Matthews-Barnett. Council Member Herbert Thomas was absent due to a family emergency.

Also present were City Secretary Janie Willman, City Attorney Paula Alexander, City Financial Advisor JJ Johnson, Municipal Court Judge Morris Overstreet, and Police Chief Larry Johnson.

**Invocation**

Reverend Lenora Dabney of the Hope AME Church delivered the invocation.

Mayor Jackson announced that in the interest of time, the City Council would consider the Presentations related to the Sandra Bland proposals immediately before the Citizens Comments.

Mayor Jackson read a Resolution to Rename University to Sandra Bland Parkway and Resolution 0825-2015-A to the assembly.

Three speakers addressed the City Council on the initiatives honoring the memory and legacy of the late Sandra Bland.

Ms. Bland's sorority sister addressed the City Council asking for the City Council's support in memorializing Ms. Bland's legacy.

The Reverend Hanna Bonner addressed the City Council asking the City Council to rename University Drive in Ms. Bland's honor.

Ms. Geneva Reed-Veal, mother of Sandra Bland, addressed the City Council. She admonished the assembly indicating she is not about violence or disobedience. Ms. Reed-Veal stated she wanted her daughter's name to always be spoken because she is still speaking and so she asked the City Council do right by Ms. Bland and the family. Ms. Reed-Veal stated this is (Sandra Bland's) her legacy. Ms. Reed-Veal stated that tonight's City Council action was more than a vote; it's a legacy.

Motion was made by Council Member Herndon and second was made by Council Member Randle.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon  
Voting against: None

Abstaining: Matthews-Barnett  
Absent: Thomas

Motion passed by majority vote.

Mayor Jackson read Ordinance 0825-2015 to the assembly.

Motion was made by Council Member Herndon and second was made by Council Member Randle.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: Matthews-Barnett  
Absent: Thomas

Motion passed by majority vote.

Council Member Herndon read a personally prepared resolution to Ms. Bland's family.

Council Member Randle addressed the assembly about his personal experiences as a young black man and his hopes that social justice start in the City of Prairie View.

Mayor Jackson recognized messages from State Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and State Senator Rodney Ellis which were read aloud.

State Representative Sheila Jackson Lee addressed the City Council thanking them for their vote and support by renaming University Drive honoring the legacy of Sandra Bland. [Occurred later but is presented here for continuity.]

Mayor Jackson announced that Prairie View A & M University School of Architecture students will be working on developing standards for the memorial park. He announced that the Prairie View 4-B Economic Development Corporation will be contributing towards the development of the memorial park. He committed writing a personal check for the first \$1,000 towards the park development.

The City Council reconvened following a 20 minute recess.

### **Citizens Comments**

Mr. Cory Henderson addressed the City Council requesting that the funding for the Prairie View Volunteer Firefighting Association be continued.

### **City Council Sub-Committees and City Project Ad-Hoc Committees**

City Council Members reached a consensus to schedule a Town Hall Meeting on August 31, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to get public input towards the development of beautification standards proposed for North University Drive from U.S. 290 to the Prairie View A&M Campus working in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation.

The City Council established a sub-committee of the City Council to review the James Muse Parkway \$1.5 Million Project including Council Members Jonathon Randle and Council Member Paulette Matthews-Barnett.

The City Council established a sub-committee of the City Council to work on guidelines concerning meeting agenda development, City Council meeting options, and updating the City Council Rules of Procedure including Council Member Marie Herndon, Council Member Jonathon Miller, City Secretary Janie Willman, and City Attorney Paula Alexander.

The City Council established a sub-committee of the City Council to begin the review process of the City's Home Rule Charter including Mayor Jackson, Council Member Jonathon Randle, and Council Member Marie Herndon.

The City Council established a sub-committee of the City Council to develop, revise, and renew the City's financial policies including Mayor Jackson, Council Member Jonathon Randle, City Financial Advisor JJ Johnson, and City Treasurer Shannon Smith.

The City Council established a sub-committee of the City Council to establish a policy regarding the use of City Hall including Council Member Marie Herndon and Mr. LaVaughn Mosely.

The City Council established a sub-committee of the City Council to start reviewing the smart meter project including Mayor Jackson, Council Member Jonathon Randle, and Council Member Marie Herndon.

The City Council established a sub-committee of the City Council to work with City staff in developing a new personnel policy including Council Member Paulette Matthews-Barnett and City Secretary Janie Willman.

### **Budgetary and Taxation Matters**

The City Council voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase for the purposes of Budget Development and public notification as required by Truth in Taxation, as follows:

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Miller to consider the proposed tax rate for 2015 at \$0.73049.

Council Member Miller	Yes
Council Member Randle	Yes
Council Member Herndon	No
Council Member Matthews – Barnett	Yes

Absent – Council Member Thomas  
Present and not voting – Mayor Frank Jackson

### **Consider and take action, if deemed appropriate, on matters related to and arising from the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget and the 2015 Proposed Tax Rate**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Miller to set the first public hearing on the proposed tax rate of \$0.73049 on September 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Prairie View City Hall, 44500 U.S. Business 290, Prairie View, Texas 77446.

Voting in favor:	Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett
Voting against:	None
Abstaining:	None
Absent:	Thomas

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Miller to set the second public hearing on the proposed tax rate of \$0.73049 on September 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Prairie View City Hall, 44500 U.S. Business 290, Prairie View, Texas 77446.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Miller to set the adoption for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 City of Prairie View Budget on September 22, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Prairie View City Hall, 44500 U.S. Business 290, Prairie View, Texas 77446.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Miller to set the date for the adoption of the 2015 Tax Rate on September 22, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Prairie View City Hall, 44500 U.S. Business 290, Prairie View, Texas 77446.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

### **Consent Agenda**

Meeting Minutes of the June 23, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting pulled from consideration due to the minutes not being ready in time for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes of the July 28, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting pulled from consideration due to the minutes not being ready in time for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes of the August 12, 2015 Special City Council Meeting pulled from consideration due to the minutes not being ready in time for the meeting.

### **Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding (Accord) with the City of Santa Teclan en la Libertad, El Salvador.** No action was taken on the Memorandum of Understanding.

Consider and take action, if deemed appropriate, on Resolution 0825-2015-B, extending the current Bank Depository Services Agreement with Prosperity Bank to November 1, 2015.

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Herndon to approve Resolution 0825-2015-B.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

**Consider and take action, if deemed appropriate, authorizing a project through CenterPoint Energy for the installation of overhead street lights on Amaryllis Street and Emerald Drive and underground street lights in the City of Prairie View in an amount not to exceed \$4,393.**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Herndon to authorize a project through CenterPoint Energy for the installation of overhead street lights on Amaryllis Street and Emerald Drive and underground street lights in the City of Prairie View in an amount not to exceed \$4,393.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

It was noted that someone needs to report areas that need street illumination lights.

### **Student Home Ownership Program Initiative**

Discuss and consider action, if deemed appropriate, adopting the SHOP/Student Home Ownership Program Initiative. Mayor Jackson presented the concept to the City Council. The City Council deliberated on this initiative. No action was taken. It was requested that this item be brought back at a workshop meeting for further consideration as many questions remain to be answered.

### **Department Head Reports**

Department Reports were enclosed in the City Council Packet.

### **Mayor and City Council Reports and Announcements**

City Council written reports were submitted.

Council Member Miller reported he attended the Newly Elected Officials Conference.

Council Member Herndon wants the Volunteer Fire Department to report on who pays the water bill. Ms. Herndon also requested an update on the substandard structure at Owens and Thompson streets. She directed that the City Council appoint an Appeals Board. Ms. Herndon asked for an explanation as to why her requested agenda items were not placed on tonight's meeting agenda.

Council Member Matthews-Barnett noted that she did not attend the first Budget Workshop on August 24 due to her attendance at an Emergency Management Services class in San Antonio.

Mayor Jackson made some brief remarks. The Mayor's written report was submitted.

### **New Business (Future Agenda Items)**

Motion by Council Member Herndon and second by Council Member Randle to place an agenda item on the next City Council Meeting Agenda to discuss and take action on the location of media and videotaping in City Council Chambers.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

Motion by Council Member Herndon and second by Council Member Randle to place an agenda item on the next City Council Meeting Agenda to discuss and take action on continuing the Quarterly 4B Economic Development Newsletter.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

Motion by Council Member Herndon and second by Council Member Randle to place an agenda item on the next City Council Meeting Agenda to discuss and take action on developing a policy to retrieve City-issued equipment or property from any Elected or Appointed City of Prairie View Official.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: Thomas

Motion by Council Member Herndon to place an agenda item on the next City Council Meeting Agenda to discuss and take action on returning to James Larry the City-seized property obtained by eminent domain and charging him the property owner for the cost of the demolition.

City Attorney Paula Alexander explained eminent domain is a legal process. Ms. Alexander explained it was a legal process which the City went through in this particular case. Ms. Alexander explained the legal processes which included notices to which Mr. Larry did not respond, there were hearings scheduled which Mr. Larry did not attend, there were also an opportunity to appeal the decision of the Commissioners Court. Mr. Larry did not file an appeal. Mr. Larry's property was assessed at a market value of \$40,000 by the Commissioners. The City has documentation that Mr. Larry did get the \$40,000 from the Commissioners Court. The City condemned the property for park purposes. The property now belongs to the City. If the City no longer wants to use the property for park purposes and wants to sell it, the City has to have an election in order to do that. Then it is competitively bid and is sold for the highest amount bid, it is in the City's best interests to take the highest amount bid.

Council Member Herndon asked how long the City can take to develop the land into a park. Ms. Alexander answered about ten years. Ms. Herndon stated she was recalling her motion to place the item on an agenda.

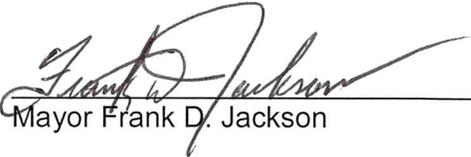
**Executive Session.** There was no Executive Session conducted.

**Adjourn.** Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Matthews-Barnett to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Voting in favor: Miller, Randle, Herndon, Matthews-Barnett  
Voting against: None  
Abstaining: None

Absent: Thomas

Approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015.



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Mayor Frank D. Jackson

ATTEST:



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City Secretary Janie Willman