

HONORABLE MAYOR

Anthony David Turner

MAYOR PRO TEM

Louie Alfaro, Place #4

COUNCIL

Alicia Stevens, Place #1

Shawn Weeks, Place #2

Soledad Flores, Place#3

Eduardo Chavez, Place #5



MINUTES

Town of Anthony, Texas

Monday, June 12, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
at 5:30 p.m.

Anthony Town Hall,
401 Wildcat Drive
Anthony, Texas 79821

Notice is hereby given of a regular meeting of the Town of Anthony Council, to be held on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas 79821, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items. All agenda items are subject to action. The Town of Anthony Council reserves the right to meet in a closed session for consultation with attorney on any agenda item should the need arise and if applicable pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER- Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

2.0 QUORUM

Councilwomen Stevens-Yes Councilman Weeks-Yes Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro-Yes

Councilwomen Flores-Yes Councilman Chavez-Yes Mayor Turner-Yes

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Mayor Turner led the Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RECEIPT OF PETITIONS: *[At this time, anyone will be allowed to speak on any matter other than personnel matters or matters under litigation, for length of time not to exceed two minutes. No Council discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law – GC, 551.042.]*

Anthony, Texas resident Robert Rodriguez informed council and mayor, he stopped by Town Hall to pay a ticket for a rock wall that has been up for 14 years. He commented he invested money on his house to cover up property because he and his family were being harassed.

Pedro Solis has been a resident at Anthony, Texas for 4 years and he is speaking on behalf of his father regarding a wall that is not up to code standards. He says it is not a wall, it was put there to protect crops during the winter so they wouldn't die. The town has never had any issues before and it has been up since 2000. He wants to know why the wall needs to be brought down when it's been up for more than 20 years.

Martin Gamboa resident at 501 Seventh Street is concerned regarding a citation that he had received informing him that he needed to put the wall down because it is not up to code. He claims he had the council approval for the wall height and when it was built it was up to code.

Chief Enriquez states that if residents want to stay these topics will be discussed during reports and clarify since discussion is not allowed during public comment and residents will get answers during reports. Mayor advises residents that they are more than welcome to stay until the reports discussion so they can have clarification and answer regarding this matter.

5.0 Approve the Minutes of the following Town of Anthony Council Meetings:

- 05-22-2023 Regular Town Council Meeting
- 05-26-2023 Special Town Council Meeting
- 05-30-2023 Special Town Council Meeting
- 06-05-2023 Special Town Council Meeting – CANCELLED

Town Clerk Valerie was unable to finish the following minutes. Minutes will be ready for the next Regular Town council Meeting. Councilman Chavez motions to table, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro. Motion passes 5-0

6.0 New Business:

- 6.1 Presentation on state of Water & Sewer Infrastructure for the Town of Anthony, Texas by Mark Sanchez, Parkhill

Mark Sanchez and Martin Contreras from Parkhill Engineering conducted a presentation of the water and sewer infrastructure for the Town of Anthony, Texas. Mark led the presentation with an overview of the town's water and wastewater system needs. Mark began by presenting 8 water system issues which were the existing standpipe that was constructed in 1958. This standpipe is 65 years old and is deteriorating and insufficient storage. Second was the dropping aquifer level reducing capacity of existing wells which need to actively monitor aquifer levels, may need to lower well pumps, need to be acquiring future well sites, need to tighten ground water ordinance to better protect the groundwater supply. The third issue is the leaking of the waterlines. The fourth issue is to replace pumps at Celeste pump station and the fifth issue is to replace the pump station at Flying J. The sixth issue is to install chlorination system at Celeste and the

seventh issue is the arsenic in water supply. The eight issue is to replace water meters with automatic reader meters. The Town of Anthony has three wells. Well #3 which its located up in Washington St. was the main production well. Well # 2 has been replaced and it is now the main well production. Mark had a meeting with the Village of Vinton about two weeks ago for a proposed commission preliminary. The Village of Vinton has progressed with the water and sewer infrastructure, and it has gotten close enough to where there is possibility to where the town can hook up to the water system.

6.2 Public Hearing (15 minutes)

Councilman Weeks Motions to move up the reports seconded by Councilman Chavez. Motion passes 5-0

Public Hearing began at 7:24pm

- 6.2.1 Town of Anthony, Texas application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives set-aside (TA) call for projects
- 6.2.2 Ordinance of the Town Of Anthony, Texas Adopting A Moratorium of the Prohibition on the sale and ignition of fireworks under The Anthony Municipal Code, Title 8 "Health And Safety", Chapter 8.08 "Fireworks, Firearms And Explosives", Section 8.08.010 "Restriction Generally", for the Fourth of July holiday of the Year 2023, with Limited Duration and Scope.
- 6.2.3 Ordinance of the Town Of Anthony, Texas establishing stipend rates for the Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Public Hearing Concluded at 7:40pm

Councilman Chavez motions to go back to reports for water and sewer update, seconded by Councilwomen Stevens. Motion passes 5-0.

6.3 Discussion, consideration and action on ratifying Resolution 2023-05-0530 supporting the Town of Anthony, Texas application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives set-aside (TA) call for projects.

Item was brought back for motion and for roll call.

Motion made by Councilman Chavez and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro. Motion passes 5-0. Roll call Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro- yes, Councilwomen Stevens- Yes, Councilman Weeks- yes, Councilwomen Flores-yes, Councilman Chavez-yes.

6.4 Discussion, consideration and action on An Ordinance of the Town of Anthony, Texas Adopting A Moratorium of the Prohibition on the sale and ignition of fireworks under The Anthony Municipal Code, Title 8 "Health And Safety", Chapter 8.08 "Fireworks, Firearms And Explosives", Section 8.08.010 "Restriction Generally", for the Fourth of July holiday of the Year 2023, with Limited Duration and Scope.

The Town Clerk mentioned this ordinance is added as an action item every year. The moratorium becomes effective beginning June 23rd, 2023, and continues in full force and effect until 10:00pm on July 4th 2023. The moratorium allows fireworks to ignite or explode on July 4th, 2023, from 9:00am until 10:00pm. Councilman Chavez motions to approve the same Moratorium from last year and keep the sale to start June 24, 2023 and last until July 4, 2023 at 10:00pm. The fireworks are allowed on July 4, 2023 from 9:00am to 10:00pm. Seconded by Councilwoman Flores. Motion passes 5-0.

Roll call Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro-Yes, Councilwoman Stevens- Yes, Councilman Chavez-Yes, Councilman Weeks-Yes, Councilwoman Flores-Yes.

6.5 Discussion, consideration and action on an Ordinance of the Town of Anthony, Texas establishing stipend rates for the Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Town Clerk mentioned that she has been working closely with Attorney Palomares considering an ordinance establishing stipend rates for the mayor and members of the Town Council. Town clerk added that starting the new fiscal year she will start processing 1099's for mayor and town council. Council decided that it would be best to remove special meetings and changing the requirements of eligibility to receive compensation from attending three quarters of meetings to half. Councilwoman Stevens motions to accept changes and put them in writing seconded by Councilwoman Flores. Motion passes 5-0.

Roll call Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro-Yes, Councilwoman Stevens-Yes, Councilwoman Chavez-Yes, Councilman Weeks- Yes, Councilwoman Flores-Yes.

6.6 Discussion, consideration, and action on Resolution FY 2022 Operation Stonegarden Grant to be operated for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Chief Enriquez mentioned the resolution is to allow police department to participate with Operation Stonegarden. Stonegarden grant pays for augmentation to pay officers for overtime and supplements patrol. This is a federal grant that gives funding to provide more foot on the ground or man power. In addition, grant provides funding to buy specialize vehicles and equipment. Motion to approve by Councilman Chavez seconded by councilwoman Flores. Motion passes 5-0.

6.7 Discussion, consideration and action on 2024 Anthony, Texas Leap Year Capital of the World event

Mayor Turner meets with the CEO and president from the Hotel Motel to discuss hotel motel categories that funds can be used. The Leap Year Event would fall into Hotel Motel compliance and would be able to hire a promotor to do website marketing and social media promoting. The event should be 2-3 days to encourage tourists to stay in the town's hotels. Councilman Weeks suggests starting event on Thursday, the actual leap day and continue thru Friday and Saturday. Councilman Weeks mentions that promoters need to start promoting The Leap Year Event by the end of July to give tourists opportunity to plan the trip ahead of time. Motion to approve by Councilman Chavez seconded by Councilwoman Stevens. Motion passes 5-0.

6.8 Discussion, consideration and action on a Resolution Denying Texas Gas Service Company's Application for An Interim Rate Adjustment for Test Year 2022 Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP)

Attorney Palomares mentioned this item was brought in last town council meeting and it was brought back to present the resolution to deny Texas Gas Service Company application. Motion made by Councilman Chavez to approve the resolution to deny Texas Gas Service Company Application for an Interim Rate Adjustment for the test year 2022 GRIP, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro. Motion passes 5-0.

Roll call Councilwoman Stevens-Yes, councilman Weeks- Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro- Yes, Councilwoman Flores- Yes, and Councilman Chavez- Yes.

7.0 Executive Session: The Town Council will go into a closed executive session pursuant to Section 551.087 (Deliberation regarding Economic Development) of the Texas Government Code to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations; or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described by Subdivision (1); the open meeting will be reconvened following the closed session at which time action, if any, will be considered.

7.1 Town Council will be in closed session to discuss economic development: 892 acres, 900 Ginger, L.P. and Exit 0, L.P.

The Town Council will go into a closed executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 (personnel matters) of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or charge against an officer or employee; the open meeting will be reconvened following the closed session at which time action, if any, will be considered.

7.2 Town Council will in in closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or charge against Office Clerk (Rebecca Martinez)

7.3 Town Council will in in closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, and duties of Communications Officer for the Anthony, Texas Police Department (Nancy Enriquez)

7.4 Town Council will in in closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or charge against Code Enforcement Officer for the Anthony Texas Police Department (Guadalupe "Lupe" Ochoa)

Reconvene into open session and take action if necessary: Reconvene into open session at 9:15pm

7.1. Take any action based on discussions held in closed session under Executive Session Agenda Item

7.1. No action taken.

7.2. Take any action based on discussions held in closed session under Executive Session Agenda Item

7.2. Motion made by Councilwoman Stevens to change status for Rebecca Martinez from office clerk to Deputy Town Clerk at \$14.00 an hour, seconded by Councilwoman Flores. Motion passes 5-0

7.3. Take any action based on discussions held in closed session under Executive Session Agenda Item

7.3. Motion made by Councilman Chavez to hire Nancy Enriquez as the Communications Officer for the Anthony, Texas Police Department starting pay \$16.00, seconded by Councilman Weeks. Motion passes 5-0

7.4. Take any action based on discussions held in closed session under Executive Session Agenda Item

7.4. Motion made by Councilman Chavez to approve to send Guadalupe "Lupe" Ochoa to police academy as a police officer at \$16.00, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alfaro. Motion passes 5-0

8.0 Reports

8.1 Finance- **Nothing to Report**

8.2 Streets- **Public Works department replaced some stop signs and have been clearing around the fire hydrants from weeds.**

8.3 Parks- **Great job maintaining the parks. The Public Works Department is trimming grass twice a week, emptying trash cans twice a week. Restrooms locked only for those who reserve the park. There has been less damage to restrooms and property. Detailed cleaning at the soccer fields, more use in the weekend. Cleaned weeds and boxed near Stateline fence. Municipal parks have been a success, no toilets have been broken and trash left. People have been picking up after parties. Public Works department have**

installed LED lights at Municipal Park for gazebo because they kept breaking light bulbs with metal fixtures. Also, public works department has repaired 4 leaks in the month of May.

- 8.4 Water & Sewer- Interim Public Works Nathaniel Garcia discussed that the plant needed to replace 6 pumps, each for the cost of \$10,000 to \$12,000, bought a total of 8 and been buying them in bulk each came out to \$8,000 which ended up saving money. He gave an update regarding the 6in water tap that will be installed behind La Feria on Third St. 600 Notices were passed out to affected areas.
- 8.5 Chief's Monthly Report May 2023- 40 More vehicles impounded this month. 39 driving without drivers license and no insurance. 20 Recovery/ Possession of narcotics. 20 Misdemeanor arrest. 12 Felony arrest. 1 Emergency retention orders, 8 code citations, 6 referrals to border patrol, 190 citations, and total cases of 75. The impound generated over \$10,000 this month. The significance events on the task force guys they seized 21.56 pounds of cocaine, 25.433 kilograms of methamphetamine.51 pounds of marijuana. The police department seized two vehicles and arrested 4 individuals, two of them were fugitives. Anthony PD also participated in the click it or ticket event.
- 8.6 Code Enforcement – Code enforcement Ochoa was sent out in response to an agenda item that was placed and passed. At the request of the council, Chief and Code Enforcement Ochoa sat with Mr. Garcia to go over addresses that he claimed were in violation. However, Mr. Garcia refused to give out any addresses because he didn't want to get anyone in trouble. Mr. Ochoa still went around to see what types of walls were in violation that Mr. Garcia claimed. Mr. Ochoa did see a couple of them, and Mr. Ochoa requested guidance on how to do it. Chief did tell Mr. Ochoa to go speak with the homeowners and let them know that they did receive a written warning to address they do have a potential violation and recommendation is if they were seeking not to knock down their wall to bring it upon council before the building inspector identifies they can have a variance. There were a lot of walls and fences that were built many years ago, so we don't have paperwork to substantiate if they had a permit or not. Mr. Ochoa added that when he went to speak with these individuals, he was trying to get a back story of why they needed the wall to be that high, perhaps if they have receipts or anything in that matter. Councilman Chavez shared that on last council meeting they agree that it was going to be from the time ordinance passes till present. Councilman Weeks suggests that the Town of

Anthony grandfathers the homeowners. Mayor suggests that the town should give homeowners a grace period of approximately 1 or 2 weeks where residents can be listed and have inspector and code enforcer verify that they meet the criteria to get grandfathered. Attorney Palomares highly suggest that the homeowners should attempt to get up to codes for their security in case of an injury where the wall is not properly secured and end up falling on top of someone.

8.7 Municipal Court- Chief presented the monthly report, Chief mentions that the court brought in \$24,500. Continue to get in person and virtual hearings. 139 new cases were filed in the month. 2 were parking, 61 were state law, and 18 were city ordinances. Deposition of trial 47 were found guilty. 1 for no parking, 21 for state law and 3 for city ordinances were found guilty.

8.8 Administration

8.8.1 Anthony Fitness Night-Out June 23rd at 5:30pm – Mayor expresses that the community is welcome for this event. The Chief mentions it is basically a health fair, with different booths, having many physical activities.

8.8.2 4th of July Parade – Town Clerk has been working closely with the 4th of July parade.

The next Regular Town Council meeting is scheduled at 5:30 PM on Monday, June 26, 2023.

I. ADJOURN MEETING – Motion to adjourn by Councilman Chavez seconded by Councilwoman Flores. Motion passes 5-0



MINUTES PASSED AND APPROVED ON JULY 24th, 2023

APPROVED BY MAYOR ANTHONY DAVID TURNER, MPH

SUBMITTED BY: TOWN CLERK
VALERIE M. ARMENDARIZ, MPA