

CITY OF GEORGE WEST, TEXAS

CITY MANAGER
GEORGIA A. VINES

CITY SECRETARY
MARIA HERNANDEZ

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY
CARLOS VALDEZ



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Phone 361-449-1556 • Fax 361-449-3030

MAYOR
ANDREW J. GARZA

MAYOR PRO-TEM
JEARL RANNEFELD

COUNCIL
KITLEY WASICEK
PATRICIA CLIFTON
RINDLE WILSON

REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING-October 18, 2018

- I. **Mayor Andrew Garza** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Roll Call by City Secretary Maria Hernandez
Council Present: Mayor Andrew Garza, Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld, Council Members Kitley Wasicek, Patricia Clifton, and Rindle Wilson. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: David Perkins, Maria Hernandez, Georgia Vines, Shirley Holm, D'Ann Lane

Attorney Present: Carlos Valdez

Guest Present: See Sign-in Sheet
- III. Invocation was given by Council Member Rindle Wilson
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was led by Maria Hernandez.
- V. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas was led by Maria Hernandez.
- VI. Public Comments

Debra Myers – She states that she was employed with the City of George West from June 20, 2017 until June 27, 2018. She worked hard long hours. She was here to clarify a few things so there is no misrepresentation of her time as City Secretary. She states that she did not attend the July 19th council meeting but she reviewed it on Facebook. During her time in office, Georgia Vines appointed a committee to find the City three quotes for new medical insurance. She worked with an insurance broker named Tom Selzer. She states that at the July 19th council meeting Mrs. Vines stated that she was not paying \$2000.00 to her cousin. She continues by saying that she wants to set the record straight and that Mr. Selzer is not her cousin and has never been her cousin. She offers the council members his number so they could check the facts for themselves.

Secondly, she states that the City Manager posted on Facebook that Debra did not leave her passwords for the new City Secretary when she left. She states that she did

leave her password book in the left-hand draw of her desk and that there was only one person who knew that she left it there and that was Georgia Vines. Debra says she wanted to leave things convenient for Ms. Hernandez so she could get into the different programs and create her own passwords. Debra does not know what happened to the password book.

In the future she would like those who serve as public officials to check their facts before making statements to slander and defame another's name or make threats.

She states that she left her position due to personal reasons which also included working in a hostile environment that she could not change. She claims there was unethical hiring and firing practices along with lying and backstabbing displayed on a daily basis. She has seen and felt the intimidation at City Hall for herself and other employees.

Debra says her relationship with the Lord is first and foremost the most important aspect of her existence. It is because of that relationship that she works with integrity. She states that she was trusted to handle the responsibilities of her position in an honest, fair, and reputable manner and she took that role very seriously. She tried to demonstrate and act on qualities that would make the position and title respectable, as well as the citizens of George West, Proud. She wants to thank those who entrusted her with that honor and she appreciates the time she has been allowed to speak this evening to clear these things up.

Sandra Amoles – Sandra agrees with some of the things that Mrs. Debra Myers stated. She says that some of you guys need to act professionally on Facebook. Mrs. Pat Lancaster made a comment and she also made a comment to the newspaper and it makes her wonder how Pat is getting her information, is someone leaking out information?

She states that for those that took an Oath it's yall's job to be faithful to the citizens not to just take sides. She thinks that since Mrs. Vines has been here for 15 months that she has done some good but she thinks we deserve better.

She states that Mrs. Vines put her on blast for a picture she sent to Mrs. Vines that should have been a safety concern and she turned it into a sex pedophile.

She asks the council to be professional and states that Georgia posted something on Facebook that became a war about which streets need to be repaired. She claims that this Facebook post was Georgia's way of driving the Police Department and City Hall against the citizens of George West.

Sandra raises the question about the splashpad being a necessity over the repair of our streets.

Suzanne Martin – Suzanne says she is here tonight to make certain statements part of public record. She states that her name appeared on tonight's agenda as part of open session due to the City being notified there are two litigations brought to the City by her. She claims that her name appearing on the agenda is retaliation from Georgia Vines and Jason Lee. She is under advisement by her attorney to notify the City that an attempt to file a third charge for EEO for retaliation due to her name being listed on the agenda.

She states that a cease and desist letter has been sent by her attorney in regards to

Georgia Vines and Jason Lee. A defamation suit will be filed on her behalf against Georgia Vines and potentially Jason Lee will be forthcoming as soon as additional information is received to finalize the suit.

Suzanne is asking the council to vote tonight to terminate Georgia Vines and also asking Chief Perkins to terminate Jason Lee.

Ray Harris – Mr. Harris hands out papers that pertain to his reason for being here. He states that he is there tonight to state why he thinks certain employees should not be fired and that these thoughts are his own and not enforced on him from anyone else.

Rodney Wilson – He wants to make a few comments on the ongoing investigation of the misuse of taxpayer money by previous administration. He states that it is his understanding that over the past year or year and a half that the Attorney General office has sent two emails requesting copies of five cancelled checks and that those emails have been ignored. He wonders why these emails were ignore for so long and that it took our City Attorney Mr. Valdez, one afternoon to find four of those five missing checks.

Mr. Wilson states that he feels that the council sees taxpayer money as monopoly money and there is no accountability for these actions. City Attorney Carlos Valdez says that Shirley Holm needs the credit for finding those checks. Georgia Vines says that she asked Mrs. Holm to look for those checks and that she said she will look for them when she had the time. Shirley Holm says that she did contact the bank and because of the date they were not able to give her the cancelled checks. She also states that she did go into the storage room to look for those checks but felt unsafe with moving boxes with the height and number of unstable boxes at the time.

Ray Lopez – Ray is requesting to move his barbeque food trailer to in front of the Buck West House.

VII. Announcements and Correspondence

- a.) Fall City Wide and UTB Clean-Up Day, October 20, 2018

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Due to the weather the Fall City Wide Cleanup was cancelled

- b.) Texas Department of Transportation approval letter for Storyfest street closures

- c.) Artisan Market Days October 20 and November 17, 2018

*Approved from 9am – 2pm

- d.) Trunk-R-Treat on October 31, 2018

*5:30pm – 7:30 pm in parking lot of city hall

- e.) Story Fest on November 3, 2018

*Starts Friday morning with the community breakfast at the Buck West House

*Last all weekend with closing Sunday Evening at the church

*Details will be posted in the newspaper

- f.) Winterfest

*Will be held at the Coliseum

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes:

- a) Special Session City Council Meeting -- 07-26-2018
- b) Special Session City Council Meeting -- 08-13-2018
- c) Special Session City Council Meeting -- 08-14-2018
- d) Regular Session City Council Meeting -- 08-16-2018
 - *pulled from the agenda
- e) Special Session City Council Meeting -- 08-30-2018
- f) Special Session City Council Meeting -- 09-13-2018
- g) Special Session City Council Meeting -- 09-25-2018
- h) Special Session City Council Meeting -- 10-01-2018
 - *Mayor Garza calls for a vote -- All in Favor
 - Motion carried with exception of 1d.
 - *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to postpone Regular Sessions City council meeting minutes for 8-16-18.
 - * Council Member Kitley Wasicek made motion, Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld second.
 - * Mayor Garza called for a vote.
 - *All in favor -- motion carried.

2. Consideration and Action to change the time of the November City Council Regular Session Meeting to 6:30 p.m.

*No Action taken on Agenda item number 2.

3. Consideration and Action to approve the City Manager and the City Secretary to attend TMRS Retirement Training on November 7-9, 2018.

*No Action taken on agenda item number 3.

RESOLUTION:

4. Consideration and Action to adopt Resolution No. 2018-10, removing Jason Lee as signatory on the South Trust Bank accounts, and adding Chief David R. Perkins.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Kitley Wasicek motions
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds
- *Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- *All in favor -- motion carried

BUSINESS:

5. Consideration and Action to approve the Armstrong, Vaughan and Associates contract to perform the City of George West 2017-2018 Annual Audit.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Kitley Wasicek made motion.
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds.
- *Shirley Holm gives two dates the Auditors can come.
- *Mayor Garza calls for a vote.
- *All in favor, motion carried.

6. Consideration and action to approve the George West School Health Advisory Board's request for assistance and road closure, as per map, for the Fun Run/Walk on November 3, 2018 from 7:45 a.m. through 9:30 a.m.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton made motion
- * Council Member Kitley Wasicek seconds
- *Mayor calls for a motion to amend the date to December 8th, 2018
 - * Council Member Rindle Wilson made a motion
 - * Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds
- *Mayor Garza called for a vote.
 - *All in favor – amendment carried
- *Mayor calls for a motion to amend the date to December 8th, 2018
 - * Council Member Rindle Wilson made a motion
 - * Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION. In accordance with Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code (Personnel Matters), and Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), the City Council may go into executive session to discuss the following:

- a). Discussion on the employment, evaluation, duties and allegations regarding the City Manager
- b). Potential Litigation by Suzanne Martin
- c). Potential Litigation by Heather LaGesse

- *Council Member Patricia Clifton made a motion to suspend the rules
 - * Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld seconds
- *Mayor Garza calls for a vote – All in favor – Motion carried to move Executive Session to the end

8. Reconvene

- *No Action taken

9. Consideration and Action on employment, evaluation, and duties of The City Manager.

- *Moved to the end of the meeting

10. Consideration and Action to set the date, time, and street closure for the City of George West lighting of the Park.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:

- * Council Member Patricia Clifton made motion
- * Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld seconds

*Mayor calls for a motion to amend the date to November 29, 2018 beginning at 5:30pm with standard street closures.

- *Mayor Garza calls for a vote on the amendment
- *All in favor – amendment carried

- *Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- *All in favor – motion carried

11. Consideration and Action to Approve the purchase of a John Deere 3025E tractor/shredder as submitted during the budget workshop and approved by Council.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Kitley Wasicek made motion
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds
- *Council Member Rindle Wilson suggests the council wait until the new Public works director gets to George West to verify, he wants to purchase this tractor.
- *Council Member Rindle Wilson moves to postpone this action
- *Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds
- *Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- *All in favor – motion carried to postpone

12. Consideration and Action to direct the city manager to improve the sound system of the recordings of the city council meetings.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton made motion
- * Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld seconds
- *Council Member Kitley Wasicek would like 3 different bids for sound system. Low cost, medium cost and high cost.
- *Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- *All in favor – motion carried

13. Consideration and Action to approve the summary of the 2018 Tax Roll as required by Section 26.09E of the property Tax Code.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton made motion
- * Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld seconds
- *Mayor Garza states this is something we have to do every year.
- *Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- *All in favor – motion carried

14. Consideration and Action to approve the City of George West paying 50% of dependents Health insurance, after the employee meets the three-month probationary period. This benefit will be effective beginning October 2018.

- *Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:

- * Council Member Patricia Clifton made motion
- * Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld seconds
- * Mayor states that the cost is for entire family no matter the number of dependents.
- ** Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- * All in favor – motion carried

15. Consideration and Action to Approve Accounts Payable for September, 2018.

- * Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton made motion
- * Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld seconds
- ** Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- * All in favor – motion carried

ORDINANCE:

16. Consideration and Action to approve, the first reading of Ordinance No. 859 amending the current rates and charges for natural gas for commercial consumers and providing for the inclusion of churches within the rate structure.

- * Mayor Garza entertains a motion to move as read:
- * Council Member Kitley Wasicek made motion
- * Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds
- * Noelia Martinez gives a brief description on Ordinance.
- Noelia states that commercial is paying \$6.75 and residential is paying \$7.00. Noelia asks to raise commercial rates to the same as residential rates to save residents on the fuel adjustment fees.
- ** Mayor Garza called for a vote.
- * All in favor – motion carried.

BRIEFINGS:

17. City Manager's Report:

- a. Revenue and Expense Report for September 2018
 - * Shirley Holm, Financial Accountant, gives a brief report on city finances.
- b. City and Project Updates
 - * Council Member Kitley Wasicek and Council Member Patricia Clifton give brief statements about our city streets.

18. Engineer's Report by LNV:

- a. LNV – Sewer Pond

19. Questions or Briefings at the City Council's Request:

- a. Volunteer Fire Department
- b. Code Enforcement
- c. Public Works
- d. Police Chief Report

(7.) *Mayor Garza entertains the motion to reinstate the rule.

* Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld made motion

* Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds

*Mayor Garza called for a vote.

*All in favor – motion carried for rule to be instated for item #7.

*Council Member Kitley Wasicek made a motion to go into executive session

*Council member Patricia Clifton second.

*Mayor Garza called for a vote

*All in favor – motion carried and the council entered into executive session at 7:50pm

*Motion to reconvene in open session

*All in favor- motion carried reconvened at 9:49pm

9. Consideration and Action on employment, evaluation, and duties of the City Manager.

* Council Member Rindle Wilson made motion to amend agenda item with the immediate termination of City Manager Georgia Vines.

* Council Member Patricia Clifton seconds

* Mayor Garza calls for a vote – motion carried with 3 yes and 1 no.

*Mayor Garza calls for a vote for the Amended Item #9 to state the immediate termination of City Manager Georgia Vines.

*Motion carried with three yes and one no.

20. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Pro-Tem Jearl Rannefeld, second by council member Patricia Clifton. All in favor, motion carried. Mayor Garza adjourned the meeting at 9:54pm.

ATTEST:



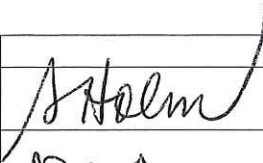

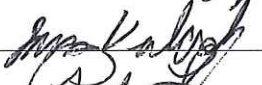

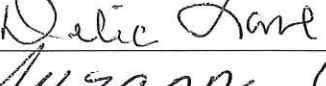
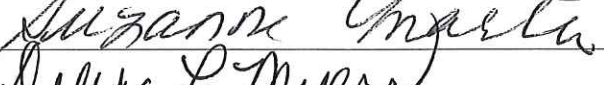



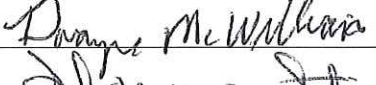
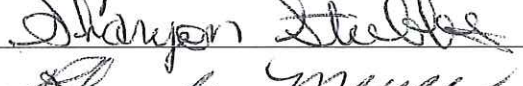
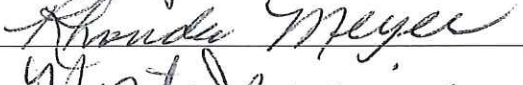




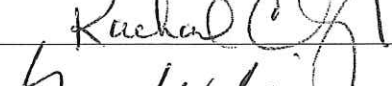
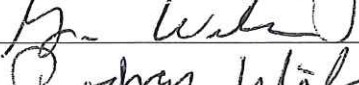
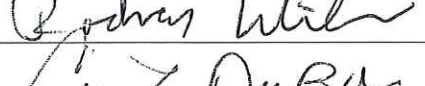



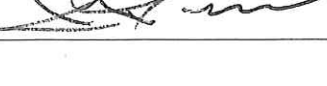
Maria Hernandez
City Secretary

SIGNED:



Andrew Garza
Mayor

SIGN IN SHEET
OCTOBER 18, 2018
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
(PLEASE PRINT & SIGN)

PLEASE PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE
SHIRLEY HOLM	
Octavio	
James Valadez	
Pet LANCASTER	
Delia Lane	
Suzanne Martin	
Debra Myers	
Heather Labesse	
Sandra Amoles	
Dwayne McWilliams	
Sharon Stubbs	
Rhonda Meyer	
Monte Jennings	
SHANNON DAVIS	
Clayton Myers	
Elaine Bowen	
Rachael Clayton	
GRACE WILSON	
Robbey Wilson	
Cindi L. Dubois	
MARY BRESLIN	
JOHN WALKER	
RUBEN PEÑA	

(PLEASE PRINT & SIGN)

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