

City of Saginaw
Minutes of the City Council Meeting
Held on February 18, 2025
333 West McLeroy Blvd.

Present at the Meeting:

- Todd Flippo, Mayor
- Paul Felegy, Mayor Pro-Tem, Place 1
- Nick Lawson, Place 2
- Valerie Junkersfeld, Place 3
- Brack St. Clair, Place 4
- Cindy Bighorse, Place 5
- Mary Copeland, Place 6
- Bryn Meredith, City Attorney
- Gabe Reaume, City Manager
- Lee Howell, Asst. City Manager
- Kim Quin, Finance Director
- Vicky Vega, City Secretary
- Russell Ragsdale, Police Chief
- Doug Spears, Fire Chief
- Randy Newsom, Director of Public Works
- Pedro Zambrano, Director of Economic Development & Community Engagement
- Ellen Ritchie, Library Director
- Trenton Tidwell, City Engineer
- Cameron Inglese, Police Officer

Absent from the Meeting:

- Melanie McManus, Director of Human Resources

Visitors at the Meeting:

- Maria Hernandez
- Larry Little
- Brandon Badovinac
- Corey Burnett
- Ronnie Martinez
- Suzy Victor-Trevino
- Shawn Morrison
- Valentino Gutierrez
- Jaime Lelesro
- Diksha
- Carlie Callaway
- Tara Clontz
- David Garcia-Rodriguez
- Jacob Rodriguez

- Cory McKinnon
- Le Brienne Brown
- Michael Knight
- Graeme Hopkins
- Chad Bittle

1. Call To Order

1A. Call To Order -- Todd Flipppo, Mayor

Mayor Flipppo called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1B. Pledges--Pledge of Allegiance to the United States; Pledge of Allegiance to the State of Texas--"Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one State under God, one and indivisible"

1C. Invocation--Dr. Mark Towns, First Baptist Church

In the absence of Dr. Mark Towns, Shawn Morrison gave the Invocation.

1D. Audience Participation--Anyone wishing to speak during the discussion of an item listed on the agenda must complete an audience participation form. These forms are located by the Police Chief. After completing the form, give it to the City Secretary. She will give it to the Mayor. The Mayor will call on you when that item is discussed. You will have three (3) minutes to make your comments.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Councilmember Junkersfeld with a second by Councilmember Bighorse to approve Items 2B & 2C of the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. 7-0-0-0. (2A & 2D were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion)

2A. Action Regarding an Emergency Medical Services Inter-Local Agreement with the City of Fort Worth -- Doug Spears, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Spears gave a brief overview on item 2A, he explained that the item on the agenda has 2 parts. The EMS Inter-Local Agreement and the Adoption of the EMS Ordinance. The EMS Inter-local is being presented tonight for action. The adoption of the EMS ordinance will be presented at the City Council Meeting on March 4, 2025 for action.

**** Item was Removed from Consent**

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Felegy with a second by Councilmember Lawson to approve the EMS Inter-Local Agreement. Motion carried unanimously. 7-0-0-0

2B. Action Regarding Renewal of the AA Wrecker Contract for Police towing--Russell Ragsdale, Police Chief

City Ordinance No. 2004-16 authorizes the city to contract with one towing company for police non-consent tows, for towing of City owned vehicles, or for the towing of any vehicle made necessary in the exercise of city's police and governmental functions.

The Police Department has contracted with AA Wrecker Service of Haltom City for many years. AA Wrecker Service has continuously maintained rapid response times, professional conduct and a commitment to the services required by the Saginaw Police Department. There have been no issues

during our past years of service and the department wishes to renew the contract with AA wrecker Service. There is no financial impact to the City. All fees for non-consent tows are passed to the vehicle owner, which is the common procedure across the state for non-consent tows. Staffs recommends approval.

2C. Action Regarding the Fireworks Contract for the Independence Celebration Event -- Randy Newsom, Public Works Director

The costs for the 2025 Independence Fireworks Show is \$25,000. The Advisory Recreation and Parks Board voted to recommend approval with the funds to be paid out of the Parks Donation fund.

2D. Action Regarding the approval of By-Laws for the Northwest Emergency Communications Center (NWECC)

Police Chief Ragsdale explained that the City entered into an agreement with the City of Lake Worth creating the Northwest Emergency Communications Center (NWECC), which answers emergency 9-1-1 and administrative calls for service and then dispatches those calls to officers in the field. The proposed By-Laws establish the authority of the NWECC, as well as the partner agency responsibilities, roles, guidelines and financial budgeting of the NWECC. Councilmember Bighorse questioned Article 3.7 on page 4 of the By-Laws , "Board Members" which states that one-third (1/3) of the three appointed board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Councilmember Bighorse expressed her concern that one person could make a decision for the board if two board members were absent. She recommends to have a majority vote and to have the By-laws reviewed and presented at a future council meeting for consideration and action.

**** Item was Removed from Consent**

Motion was made by Councilmember Bighorse with a second by Councilmember Junkersfeld to Table item 2D. Motion carried unanimously. 7-0-0-0

3. Proclamations-Presentations

3A. Employee Recognitions/Presentations--Gabe Reaume, City Manager

Police Chief Ragsdale recognized new employees of the Police Department that were hired during 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Officer B. Reed

Officer C. McKinnon

Jailer L. Brown

Officer M. Knight

Officer G. Hopkins

Office P. Montgomery

Officer C. Bittle

Records Clerk Carlie Callaway

Officer D. Deval

3B. Discussion of the City Employee Code of Conduct and Respect for Citizens--Valentin Gutierrez

Mr. Valentin Gutierrez addressed the Mayor & Council regarding issues on November 20, 2024 and on January 29, 2025 that he wanted to address. The first incident (November 20th) involved the Code Compliance Department, and the second incident (January 29th) involved Mr. Gutierrez contacting the Police Department in regards to a stolen vehicle. Mr. Gutierrez stated that a Police Officer came to his residence and beat on this door as if he had committed a crime. Mr. Gutierrez expressed that he had a problem with that and expressed the importance that the City have a code of conduct for all employees so that there are clear lines of how employees should should act. Mr. Gutierrez stressed the importance of a code of conduct as well as making sure citizens have the right to address the City Council with their concerns and grievances.

Mr. Gutierrez added that a strong code of conduct and an active exercise of the right to petition are not opposing factors. They are complimentary and work together to hold and ensure our government remains responsive, accountable, and truly serves the people in its community. He encouraged the Council to embrace both to build a better future for our city.

Mayor Flippo called for any questions or comments from the City Council. One question asked was regarding a code of conduct for employees, and is the policy currently posted on the website for citizens to view. City Manager Reaume confirmed that employees have a code of conduct. He stated the Personnel Policies Manual is a internal document but did not see an issue posting it on the City's website.

Assistant City Manager Howell explained that there is a chapter of conduct in the Personnel Policies Manual but not a code of conduct. However the manual does address employee standards of conduct and complaints by citizens. He added that it's the department head's discretion as to whether the complaints are violations of the policy or what type of outcome should be taken if any. He also added that there are also additional department polices that go into more detail on employee conduct in regards to how they interact with citizens.

Mr. Gutierrez expressed that he would like to see Police Officers be held to a higher standard. There was discussion regarding Mr. Gutierrez's concerns and standards regarding employee conduct. Mr. Gutierrez agreed to meet with Fire Chief Spears, Police Chief Ragsdale, and 2 to 3 Councilmembers to further discuss his concerns.

3C. Update on Valve Replacement project--Ronnie Martinez, Superintendent of Water/Wastewater Utilities

Ronnie Martinez, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, presented to Mayor and Council an update on the Valve Maintenance Program. The valve program started on Feb 21, 2024.

The city has 120.86 miles of water line in the ground in Saginaw. Attached to the water line are 2,519 valves. The city also has 1,190 hydrants that serve as fire protection and also flushing points for the system.

There are 26 grids on the map, the department has completed 6 of those grids. While completing those, they were able to operate a total of 496 valves, finding 11 broken, 24 offset. Out of the 1,190 hydrants in the system, the department has been able to maintenance 99.

Mr. Martinez discussed some of the benefits of having valve maintenance program and some of the benefits he explained are map accuracy, asset management, system efficiency, minimizing service interruption and help with water quality. The funds that were granted to this program have allowed the department to replace 8 out of the 11 broken valves in the city system.

3D. Update on City Branding Community Vote -- Pedro Zambrano, Communications Manager

Pedro Zambrano presented to Mayor & Council a brief summary of the votes cast for the recent City Branding/Logo Survey.

He stated that a total of 1,605 votes were cast with 58.2% for Choice A (current logo) and 41.8% for Choice B. Guidelines and a resolution adopting the logo will be presented to the Council at a future City Council Meeting for action.

3E. Presentation of American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation--David Garcia, Intern

David Garcia gave a presentation to the Mayor and Council that provided an update regarding the accreditation process for the Public Works Department. He also discussed the benefits of having the accreditation and the importance of having policies within the department, maximizing assets, reducing liability costs and establishing best practices to help reduce the overall costs within the department. In the state of Texas only 16 cities/towns hold this accreditation, and the City of Saginaw would be part of this exclusive list.

He stated that APWA will be meeting with the Public Works Department on February 24, 2025 to review the information that has been submitted. APWA will provide feedback to the Public Works Department if any changes are needed. The Public Works Department will have forty-five (45) days to submit final changes. it's estimated that by April 2025 the Public Works Department will receive their accreditation.

4. Public Hearings

4A. Public Hearing -- Consideration and Action Regarding a Request for a Specific Use Permit to allow a Residential Carport on the Property located at 1104 Roundhouse Dr. , Saginaw, Texas 76131 -- Maria Hernandez, Planning Tech

Mayor Flippo declared the public hearing for this item opened at 7:17 p.m. Planning Tech Hernandez explained the requested Specific Use Permit is for a carport at 1104 Roundhouse Drive. The Planning and Zoning Commission considered this request at their meeting on February 11, 2025 and they recommended approval with the condition that white paint not be used and for the overall aesthetic of the carport to match and enhance the property.

Mayor Flippo stated that there was one reply form submitted in opposition to the item. The reply form is from Jeremy and he is against the request.

The applicant/Property owner of 1104 Roundhouse addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the look of his house and how he thought the white in color "roof" would be better because he was trying to reflect some of the heat that metal would attract. After speaking with the Planning and Zoning committee on February 11, 2025, he spoke with his contractor and changed the color to red "roof" to match the color of his brick on this house. The property owner explained to council, that after the completion of the carport, he is going to use cedar wood and stain the post. The owner would like to match the cedar post to his fence that he currently has.

Mayor Flippo called for public input. There was none. Mayor Flippo declared the public hearing closed at 7:27 p.m.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Felegy with a second by Councilmember Junkersfeld to approve the Specific Use Permit to allow a residential Carport for 1104 Roundhouse and the property owner can use the color white. Motion carried unanimously. 7-0-0-0

5. Business

5A. Consideration and Action Regarding Bid Award for Covered Parking for Police Department Vehicles--Russell Ragsdale, Police Chief

During the budgeting process, the Police Department requested funding for covered parking spaces to protect city owned police vehicles. The estimate at that time was \$125,000. The City published specs for formal bids and received only one bid. The bid is from Real Steel Canopies, LLC of Lubbock Texas.

The purpose of the covered parking is to protect and prolong the life of the police units and equipment, both internally and externally. During violent storms officers currently spend the average of an hour moving police vehicles to covered parking within the city, and then afterwards moving those units back to the PD. During the hot Texas summers, the electronic equipment in the patrol cars routinely shuts down due to excessive heat. This causes the electronics to age prematurely and causes electronics to malfunction and/or stop working altogether. During emergencies, when officers are writing reports at the PD, they go to their units and are unable to access computer CAD information and at times encounter non-functioning emergency equipment until the unit interior has a chance to cool down.

Bid amount was \$166,000 for 27 covered parking spaces for police department vehicles. Staff recommends award of the bid to Real Steel Canopies, LLC.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lawson with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Felegy to award the bid to Real Steel Canopies, LLC. Motion carried unanimously. 7-0-0-0

6. Executive Session

Mayor Flippo declared the meeting recessed into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

6A. 551.071. Texas Government Code. Consultation with Attorney. The City Council may convene in executive session to conduct a private consultation with its attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the City Council seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer; or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of

Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551, including the following items:

6B. Any posted item-

6C. 551.074. Texas Government Code. Personnel Matters. The City Council may convene in executive session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee, including deliberation regarding the following officers or employees:

6D. City Engineer

6E. 551.087. Texas Government Code. Deliberation regarding Economic Development Negotiations. The City Council may convene in executive session to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the City seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City, and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations; or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described above, including:

6F. 400 S. Saginaw Blvd. and 405 S. Belmont St.

Councilmember Junkersfeld did not stay for this item due to a Conflict of Interest.

7. Adjournment

7A. Adjournment--Todd Flipppo, Mayor

Mayor Flipppo declared the meeting back in Regular Session at 8:31 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember St. Clair with a second by Councilmember Bighorse to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. 6-0-0-1 (Junkersfeld absent)

Mayor Flipppo declared the February 18, 2025 City Council Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.