

Regular Council Meeting

January 7, 2025

Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright at 6:00pm.

Invocation given by Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Micheal Evans.

Welcome Extended to all by Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright.

Present were Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Edward Armijo, City Attorney Rebecca Tydings, City Administrator Krista Bedingfield.

Public Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright recognized former Councilman Randall Wright.
No public comments were made.

Adoption of Minutes: Motion made by Councilman Edward Armijo to adopt both sets of minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

- December 3, 2024
- December 17, 2024 Council Work Session

Old Business

- There is no old business tonight.

New Business

Municipal Court 2025 Appointments: Court Clerk Sara McCarthy presented the 2025 judicial appointments to the governing authority. Motion made by Councilman Edward Armijo to appoint the following individuals to serve as judicial appointments for the Municipal Court 2025 year; seconded by Councilman Micheal Evans. Motion carried. Unanimous.

- Municipal Court Judge-Jeffrey L. Grube.
- Municipal Court Solicitor-Greg Howard Bell.
- Municipal Court Public Defender- Clarence Williams, III.
- Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem – Sherry Herrera Campbell.
- Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem – Kristi Minor.
- Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem – Carl A. Veline, Jr.

Qualifying Fees 2025 Elections: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield made a motion to amend the language for the March 18, 2025 Special Election to now reflect June 17, 2025 Special Election to fill the unexpired terms of governing authority. City Administrator Bedingfield requested to set the qualifying fees for both the June 17th, 2025 Special Election, as well as, the November 4th 2025 General Election to 3% of the annual salary of the governing authority. Resulting in the mayor's seat at \$360.00 and the council seat at \$180.00. Motion made by Councilman Micheal Evans to amend the language for the Special Election and to set the Qualifying Fees as requested; seconded by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous.

- March 18, 2025, Special Election- Fill unexpired term of Mayor Harley
- November 4, 2025, General Election – Mayor, Councilman Post 1 and Post 2 seats

Approval of IGA Houston County Board of Elections and City of Centerville 2025 Election Year: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield requested the approval of the intergovernmental agreement between the Houston County Board of Elections and the City of Centerville, for the city's 2025 election year. This is a standard agreement that the city has had in the past with the Board of Elections and has been reviewed by City Attorney Tydings. Mrs. Bedingfield and Mrs. Tydings have worked closely with Houston County for all revisions to the agreement. A mention was made regarding the early voting locations being held at the Board of Elections and the Houston Health Pavilion and Conference Center. Motion made by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. to approve the IGA agreement as written; seconded by Councilman Micheal Evans. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval of Signature Resolution for Colony Bank & Synovus Bank-Removal of John Harley and Addition of City Administrator Krista Bedingfield as Authorized Signor: City Accountant Carol Harrison requested the approval to add City Administrator Krista Bedingfield as an authorized signor and the removal of retired Mayor John R. Harley as signor from the Colony Bank SPLOST and MDA accounts. Additionally, Mrs. Harrison requested the approval to add City Administrator Krista Bedingfield as an authorized signor and the removal of retired Mayor John R. Harley as signor on all Synovus Bank accounts: General Fund Operating, General Fund Payroll, Confiscated Funds, Municipal Court Fund, CHIP Grant Fund, Water & Sewer Revenue Fund, Storm water Utility Account. Motion made by Councilman Micheal Evans to approve the signature resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Resolution Continuing Authorization: City Attorney Rebecca Tydings sought approval of authorization resolution which allows City Administrator Krista Bedingfield to approve expenditures and/or sign documents that might be necessary to continue conducting city business in consultation with Department Heads and the remaining governing authority in the event we do not have a quorum. This resolution will sunset as of January 1, 2026. Motion made by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. to approve authorization resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Micheal Evans. Motion carried. Unanimous. (Resolution No. 2025-1)

Mayor Pro-Tem Appointment 2025 - Post 3 Councilman Evans: Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright nominated Councilman Micheal Evans for Mayor Pro tempore for the 2025 year, as it is the city's policy to rotate this position annually. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright to approve appointment of the 2025 Mayor Pro tempore; seconded by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Comments from Council: Post 1-Councilman Bird expressed optimism and assured the public of the city's future and offered thanks for the continued support. Post 2-No comments. Post 3-Councilman Evans reiterated Councilman Bird's sentiments and acknowledged that there have been lots of changes in the city, but sees a bright future ahead for the city and its citizens. Post 4-Councilman Armijo recognized the Department Heads and staff for all their contributions during periods of change and expressed optimism for the new era ahead. In closing, Post 2-Councilman Wright mentioned that an appropriate recognition of former Mayor Harley and his years of service to the city will be set in the near future.

Mayor Pro Tem Wright adjourned meeting at 6:13pm.

Mayor Pro-Tem Justin Wright

Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

Date