



Kimberly McGehee Aldrich, Mayor

Sylvia Apodaca
Christopher Garza
Janeshia Grider

Mike Martin
Susan Street
Debbie Walczyk

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. OR FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
112 BAUMAN, KIRBY, TX 78219**

This meeting will also be held by videoconference call. The location where a quorum of the governmental body will be physically present is City Hall, City Council Chambers at 112 Bauman Street, Kirby, Texas 78219 and it is the intent to have a quorum present at that location and for the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting to be physically present at that location.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Aldrich called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Aldrich led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

3. Mission Statement

“The City of Kirby is dedicated to delivering excellent municipal services to our community in a fiscally responsible manner.”

4. Roll Call

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mayor Aldrich

Council Member Apodaca
Council Member Garza
Mayor Pro-Tem Grider
Council Member Martin
Council Member Street
Council Member Walczyk

5. Citizen Participation

1. William Hilburn – He said he will speak on item 7.b.
2. Jackie Jackson – She spoke about the 34 years she lived in Kirby and offered her support for Ms. Monique Vernon and wished her well.
3. Jack Miller – He stated he is glad Council is going with William Linn because he is a straight shooter. He has the courage to make decisions and so did Monique. He said he did not agree with not renewing her contract. He thought she was a great city manager. He said he spoke with people who worked with Mr. Linn and he is not about that life. He does not care whose feelings he hurts; he operates within the laws and the rules. He spoke about Chief Arredondo from Uvalde School District. He said Code Enforcement is sending out notices to residents and encouraged residents to speak with Chief Cardona and Council about your concerns.
4. Laura Stanford – She announced that she is running for Place 6, Judson ISD School Board.
5. Pat Hollins – Mr. Miller informed Mayor Aldrich she left.
6. Kathy Gomez – She thanked City Manager Vernon, Mayor Pro-Tem Grider and Council Member Street for their immediate responses to concerns. She thanked Council for coming together to fix the problem. This is a testament that our local officials care and can work together to try and resolve matters. A resident informed her she is pleased to see street construction taking place. She addressed Ms. Vernon and said it's obvious by the large crowd you are well respected, cherished and loved. She has observed her during meetings and she is always poised, eloquent and well versed in all matters involving the City. She is sad to see Ms. Vernon move on. She takes comfort and hopefully others will as well that Ms. Vernon will be moving on to greater things and she hoped she will choose another small city to share her knowledge and drive them forward. She extended an invitation to all candidates that they can place their campaign signs in her yard. She wished all the candidate's good luck.
7. Lisa Pierce - She spoke to Monique. She thanked her for her service to the City of Kirby. She brought professionalism and skill sets our City greatly benefited from during her

tenure. It was not always recognized by everybody, but for those of us who knew what you did day in and day out and how far we came it's very much appreciated. She also appreciated the working relationship they previously had and grateful that although they did not agree on everything that they were able to share ideas and differences of opinions. She learned a tremendous amount from her and thankful that she didn't always go along with everything she said, but provided critical feedback on why something may have not been the best for the City. It was comforting to hear Mr. Miller mention that the person that may be here is not a yes person because it would be very critical and something really bad for the City if your city manager just says yes to everything. Thank you for providing feedback. Always having a decision that even though they were passionate about each of their sides that it was something that they could walk out of the room and maintain that professionalism that she always had. I am blessed to know you. I am blessed to have you know my family. I'm blessed to know your family and I treasure the friendship we have and really sorry to see you go. But as other people mentioned I know that wherever you land that you were going to do great things and I wish you and your family nothing but the best. Thank you.

8. Anna Hollins – She was not present to speak.

9. Bonnie Olvera – She was not present to speak.

10. Tim Wilson – He will speak on Item. 7 b.

11. Cory Mobley – He said TrueVision Church opened their doors in 2014 and were greeted by City Manager Monique Vernon and Mayor Timothy Wilson. The City embraced us partly because of Ms. Vernon and Mayor Wilson. We thank you all for allowing us to be here. We are glad that you see us more than just a church, but as a resource for this City. A lot of governments don't welcome churches. We own a lot of land and don't have to pay taxes, so you don't make any money off of us. Thank God. But for the other I'm just seeing us as more than a church, but as a resource for the City. We appreciate that. I think that's really because of you Monique. You're down to earth and willingness to think outside the box was a unique flavor. We have many campuses in this area. This City in Bexar County has a uniqueness and a flavor that we appreciated which is why we call Kirby home. The book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 1 talks about 'there's a season for everything.' I'm glad that you used your dash in your date from starting here and your date to ending here to do so much for so many people. You are going to be missed and greatly appreciated. You know we are probably going to follow you and put a campus behind you wherever you go.

12. Maria Lozano – She said she signed up to speak because of the decision that was made regarding the Interim City Manager Mr. William Linn. When she learned the name of the candidates she searched this individual and there was an article that came out regarding his past work history at another city. She read the article posted on the City of Kenedy's Facebook page Friday March 11, 2022. She said she hoped that he is not bringing the same level of professionalism or lack of professionalism here. She asked if it is possible for Council to redact

the offer. She asked Council to listen or do more due diligence. She hoped Council can reconsider and continue looking.

6. Consideration Of And Action On Minutes

a. Special Minutes – February 2, 2023

Council Member Apodaca moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2023; seconded by Council Member Garza. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote.

AYES: 6 NAYES: 0 ABSTAIN: 1 (Council Member Walczyk)

b. Regular Minutes – February 9, 2023

Council Member Apodaca moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2023; seconded by Council Member Walczyk. The motion carried with a 6-1 vote.

AYES: 6 NAYES: 1 (Mayor Pro-Tem Grider)

7. Presentations

a. Yard Of The Quarter – Beautification & Recycle Committee

Maria Lozano, Beautification & Recycle Committee, Chairperson, announced Yard of the Quarter recipients Nancy and James Ortiz. There were not able to attend and Mrs. Lozano expressed their appreciation for the award.

b. Recognition Of Outgoing City Manager Monique Vernon

Chief Cardona spoke and said she came to Kirby Police Department in 2019. She said she was interviewed by three people which included our City Manager Monique Vernon. She researched because she was coming for an interview that she felt was important to making a difference in the community. She didn't come to Kirby for the pay so she researched the City Manager. She prepared for the interview and ultimately got the job as Lieutenant in 2019. The most amazing part of the journey and the information that you won't find online is that leaders like her existed. Monique has patience, understanding and unlimited guidance to provide you a shoulder. Monique provided an ear and a solution to any and all problems and definitely gave a woman like me inspiration and hope in places where it was darkened by others. Thank you for giving me your time, we pray that you continue to be successful in your future endeavors and that you continue your life with purpose in which from the outside looking in is creating a work environment that keeps employees motivated, care for and respected so thank you.

Chief Hilburn spoke to Monique and said you have been a part of the Kirby family for eight years. In those eight years not only have you held yourself up to a certain code of ethics, but you held your department heads and their staff to the same standards that you set for yourself. The City has been better for that. I say the Kirby family as you never treated an employee or a citizen of Kirby as they were just a number. You tried to get to know each employee that worked for the City of Kirby which makes it a family. As employees it is not always about the pay it is how one is treated that makes us want to keep coming to work and you came in the door treating people the same regardless of which department they worked in. Your leadership allowed each department to move forward and bring the City of Kirby closer to the 21st century. As you know you came into a chaotic City and you're leaving it better than you found it. Don't get me wrong, there are still issues and we all know it takes time and money to fix. Nevertheless, better than you arrived in just a short eight years ago. People know what you have accomplished here and some will give you credit while others will not. It does not matter who has the credit in the end. You know what you did and how far the City has come. You will be missed and as I and all the staff would like to thank you for your professional guidance time and energy that you provided us. Good luck.

Staff presented Ms. Monique Vernon with an award.

Tim Wilson, former mayor, mentioned a specific event in 2016 Monique attended. He said you might not remember and your family might not remember it, so we brought the video for you. He showed the video. I know how bad everything was like a million emails a day. I don't know how many people know, she actually won the contest. I think you couldn't hear some of the video. One of the things that she said shows actually when we first met. She was saying just show me and that was her attitude. That she came here and I think it pinpointed what she expected from each of her departments. You can talk but that talk didn't do anything if you couldn't show it. Monique would never expect something out of her employees that she wouldn't do. No matter what we would come up with Monique was always on board no matter how crazy it may have seemed. She always helped make it happen. We worked on the boundary adjustment with the City of San Antonio, we were able to bring an HEB into the empty warehouse. Those two things alone had tons of hours. The countless hours of unproductive Council meetings to attending all the City events and functions even made me so proud to see you grow in a very successful City Manager. She not only cared about improving Kirby, but also staff under her leadership. You have mentioned each one of them and helped them in every possible way. I know these last few years haven't been easy for you and your family. One of the things I admired most is it never changed you. You always keep your smile, your dignity and you always show up to work. Kept doing your job for the Council for a City and not knowing which day was going to be your last. You did this for the citizens of Kirby. You did this because that was what you do. Just know the very last thing in the video, she talked like she was giving herself a pep talk right before going out to dance or whenever they filmed the video. She said, "I might not be the best dancer, but I'll give you the best show." I think the City of Kirby was just your

warm-up dance and how the other city should be getting ready for the show. Kelly and I wish you the best in your next chapter.

Mayor Aldrich said to Monique you have been my friend and my mentor, you taught me how to be a Council person, and be the best that I can be. I value your friendship and your knowledge. I wish you the best. Mayor Pro-Tem Grider presented Monique with a card and said you are a professional and have always handled yourself very well, you are respected all over. Council Member Apodaca said Monique you are an exceptional person. I have never met anyone with such professionalism. You have kept your cool and never faltered. You taught me how to be a better business woman and Council woman. We are going to miss you.

- c. Presentation And Discussion On Municipal Auditing – Debbie Fraser, Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates

Debbie Fraser, Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates presented the history of the company, Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates and the history of conducting audits for the City of Kirby. She answered questions from City Council.

8. Discussion And Possible Action

- a. Discussion And Possible Action On Quarterly Financial Report Period Ending December 31, 2022

Council Member Apodaca moved to accept the Quarterly Financial Report period ending December 31, 2022; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Grider. The motion carried with a 5-2 vote.

AYES: 5 NAYES: 2 (Council Members Garza and Street)

- b. Discussion And Possible Action On Quarterly Investment Report Period Ending December 31, 2022

Council Member Walczyk moved to accept the Quarterly Investment Report period ending December 31, 2022; seconded by Council Member Apodaca. The motion carried with a 5-2 vote.

AYES: 5 NAYES: 2 (Council Members Garza and Street)

- c. Discussion And Possible Action To Accept The Resignation of Alice Moczygemba From Beautification And Recycle Committee

Council Member Apodaca moved to accept the resignation of Alice Moczygemba from Beautification and Recycle Committee; seconded Council Member Walczyk. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

AYES: 7

NAYES: 0

d. Update, Discussion And Possible Action On American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget

Council Member Garza said just received this today at 10:00 A.M. He did not enough time to make a good decision.

Mayor Aldrich said Council has been looking at these numbers for a while.

City Manager Vernon said she was asked to bring this item back with more detail. She provided historic information.

Council Member Walczyk thanked Monique for the information and said this is what she was looking for.

e. Discussion And Possible Action On Resolution No. R-2023-751 Authorizing The City Of Kirby To Apply for Bullet Resistant Shield Project

Council Member Garza thanked Lt. Alonzo for obtaining this grant.

Lt. Alonzo explained that the officer of the Office of the Governor awarded a grant and roughly \$22 million dollars to the State of Texas for law enforcement agencies to apply. With the assistance of the City Manager, he was able to get the grant submitted at the deadline and we were awarded \$22,500 for the purchase of ballistic shields.

Council Member Walczyk thanked Lt. Alonzo for his due diligence.

Council Member Garza moved to accept Resolution No. R-2023-751 authorizing the City of Kirby to apply for bullet resistant shield project; seconded by Council Member Street. The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

AYES: 7

NAYES: 0

f. Update And Discussion On City Of Kirby Grant Funding

City Manager Vernon provided an update from AACOG and informed Council the information is also in their packet.

Council Member Walczyk said thank you, I asked for this. Appreciate this.

g. Discussion And Possible Action On Retention Of A Municipal Court Prosecutor For The City Of Kirby

Council discussed the retention of a municipal court prosecutor for municipal court. The budget is \$500 per month.

Dan Santee, City Attorney, said their firm can step in while the City decided. He was not able to give feedback until after a member of the firm participates in a court session. He said their lowest rate is \$175 per hour. He said their firm will provide prosecution services for \$175 per hour until the City hired a prosecutor.

Mayor Aldrich recognized Jack Miller.

Mr. Miller said criminal activity is a serious matter. We must have court. Council needs to focus on retaining the prosecutor.

Council Member Walczyk moved to use our existing attorneys for our municipal court until we find a permanent replacement; seconded by Council Member Street. The motion carried with 6-1 vote.

AYES: 6

NAYES: 1 (Mayor Aldrich)

9. Request And Announcements

a. Requests By Mayor And Council Members For Items To Be Placed On Future City Council Agendas And Announcements On City Events/Community Interest

Council Member Street wished Monique well and thanked her for her service to the City and said she is loved and good luck.

Council Member Garza thanked everyone for attending. He wished Monique the best. He heard good positive feedback on the zipper. He thanked Public Works. He requested items for the agenda. He will provide the items in writing to City Secretary due to his voice being garbled on ZOOM.

Mayor Pro-Tem Grider said February is Black History Month. Marion Croak spent her life inventing. She's the owner of over 200 patents. One of her inventions is the text to donate function. She led a team that created this after Hurricane Katrina. From there Mayor Pro-Tem Grider thought about being selfless and community service. She recognized two groups created by black women. Black Girls Do Bike founded by Monica Garrison and Friendship is a New Pretty Too founded by Lori Julian. Black Girls Do Bike is having an event on March 5th at 9:00 A.M. at

Friedrich Wilderness Park. Friendship is A New Pretty will be donating pillows to the Second Annual Non-Profit Community Health Expos, 1:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. Mayor Pro-Tem Grider recognized her grandmother whom we lost who dedicated her life to selfless service, Emma Sue Grider. She passed away February 28th at the age of 85 years old. She sent a basket of goodies to the Kirby Senior Center in her memory. She was in the United States Army and was a nurse. She was a part of the Women's Army Corps. It was not easy being in the military, but she served her country. She was a part of the Coffee Club, Cupidettes Club, American Legion and Elks Lodge and all organizations advocating for education through scholarships and community service projects. She ended with a quote from Thurgood Marshall "in recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings we pay ourselves the highest tribute."

Council Member Apodaca thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked Monique's family for their sacrifice these past eight years. She thanked employees and asked everyone to secure their gates to prevent pets from getting out of their yard.

Council Member Walczyk asked to place fireworks on the March 9 agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Grider your grandmother was a stunning looking woman. She said the City is in the process of moving cates. She will be speaking at Kirby Baptist Church about the Senior Painting Program. She sends out a special thanks to Police Department and Fire Department. She spoke to Monique and said you are getting job offers, you are not going to have a problem. Happy sailing.

Council Member Martin thanked everyone for attending. He thanked employees and wished Monique the best.

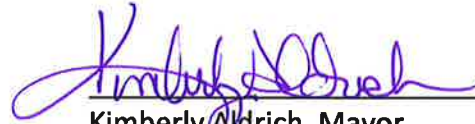
Mayor Aldrich said February is Suicide Awareness Month. If you need to talk to someone reach out. She said her phone number is available. There will be Household Hazardous Waste drop off on March 11 at Friendship Park. She said Monique you will be missed. No words express our gratitude.

Mayor Aldrich recognized City Manager Monique Vernon.

City Manager Vernon spoke about her journey as City Manager. Her first day on the job was September 19, 2014, Friday. She has been employed by the City of Kirby for eight years and five months. She stated that her record in Kirby speaks for itself. She served the community with professionalism, integrity, honesty, and a great deal of care for everyone in this community. She said please know that slander of my name, defamation of my character whether it is collectively or individually will not go without consequences. She thanked the former mayors, Mayor Wilson, Mayor Faulkner, Mayor Pierce, and Mayor Aldrich She thanked former and current City Council members and all residents of Kirby, volunteers on boards, commissions and committees and everyone who came out to help us do things like stuff Easter eggs, sell drinks at the Fourth of July Festival and all of our business owners who opened their doors to us for our quarterly business mixers and everyone who supported the City. She expressed her appreciation and thanked everyone who came out to bid her farewell.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 P.M.



Kimberly Aldrich, Mayor

ATTEST

Patty Cox, City Secretary, TRMC