CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Council Meeting - 6:30 PM
CENTER POINT CITY HALL

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

President Collins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Invocation

Pastor Charles Parker led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

President Collins led the Pledge.

D. Roll Call

Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

E. Public Comment

Pastor Murray petitioned the council for a meeting space to offer community service projects.
Raymond Olan petitioned the council to vote for single-member districts.
Pastor Charles Parker petitioned the council not to demolish 405 Kim Drive because he is interested in purchasing the property.
Jody Jacobs petitioned the council not to demolish 405 Kim Drive. He is interested in purchasing the property.

F. Approval of Agenda

President Collins presented the agenda for consideration. Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the agenda was adopted unanimously.

G. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

All items designated as "Consent" are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. NO separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Councilmember, the Mayor, or citizen interested in further discussion or hearing so requests, if so, such item (s) will revert to its normal place on the Agenda Order of Business.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt the January 2, 2025, and January 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

G.1. January 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes

H. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Moore made a motion for unanimous consent to consider the consent agenda. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:

Yes: Copeland, Jones, Moore, Williams and Collins

No: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:

Yes: Copeland, Jones, Moore, Williams and Collins

No: None

The motion passed unanimously.

H.1. Avenu Contract Renewal for Sales & Rental Tax Collection

H.2. *Resolved*, That Resolution No. 2025-16 Authorizes the Travel Advance for the mayor, council and city employees (Mayor)

I. Presentation

J. Discussion/Action

J.1. *Second Reading Ordained*, That Ordinance No. 2025-4 Requires commercial dumpsters to be enclosed (Planning & Zoning Commission)

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Councilwoman Moore made a motion to consider Ordinance No. 2025-4. Councilman Williams seconded the motion.

Yes: Copeland, Jones, Moore, Williams and Collins

No: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-4. Councilman Williams seconded the motion.

Yes: Copeland, Jones, Moore, Williams and Collins

No: None

The motion passed unanimously.

J.2. *Second Reading Ordained,* That Ordinance No. 2025-5 Creates Single Member Districts (Moore)

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-5. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins opened the floor for discussion.

Councilwoman Moore stated that she introduced the ordinance because she believes the residents will be better served by council districts. She noted that numerous residents have approached the council regarding the transition to district-based representation. When she ran for office, this was one of the concerns she had on her platform to address.

Councilman Williams stated that although he initially supported the move to council districts, he has since changed his mind.

President Collins remarked that there was a time when she supported changing from at-large voting to council districts. She believes council members should be held accountable, and districts are one way to promote greater accountability to citizens. However, she expressed concerns regarding the plan proposed today. "We are voting to change a long-standing system within a month, with little public discussion, critical research, or due diligence," she said. Critical questions remain unanswered. Was research conducted to consider the potential ramifications of the change? Have the city's population demographics been taken into account? We have over 16,000 residents, yet only about 780 voted in the last election. Were the district lines drawn properly? We lack transparency regarding the process. This feels rushed. It should have been on the agenda a year ago."

Councilwoman Moore responded by noting, "The representative from the Regional Planning Commission was present during the public hearing and asked if anyone had questions. "That would have been a good time to get answers to your concerns." She added that President Collins had time to do her research prior to the meeting. President Collins stated that she didn't have any questions to ask at the public hearing, or didn't know what questions to ask at the time.

Mayor Scott added that the council had authorized the Regional Planning Commission to draw the district lines and create maps for the proposed single-member districts.
"Everything was done fairly," he said. The Regional Planning Commission considered both demographics and population. This is the process they follow for all municipalities transitioning to single-member districts or redrawing district lines. They have ensured equal representation across all districts. I am neither for nor against single-member districts—we will abide by whatever decision the council makes."
No one on this diazo had any input on how the district lines would be drawn. It was handled by a third party company.

Councilwoman Moore further emphasized that the council had discussed the matter on multiple occasions, including during the vote to request assistance from the Regional Planning Commission in drawing district lines and gathering relevant information. She also pointed out that a public hearing was held to discuss the proposed changes. Moore affirmed that the city has followed proper procedures throughout the process.

President Collins called for a roll call vote:
Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones and Councilwoman Moore

No: Councilman Williams and President Collins

The motion passed by majority consent.

J.3. *Resolved*, That Resolution No. 2025-14 Approves the award of Economic Funds per the New Business Incentive Program to Simone's Kitchen for $10,000.00 (Economic Development Committee)

President Collins stated Simone's Kitchen & Cocktails is a new, thriving business in Center Point. They applied for a grant from the Economic Development Committee, and they approved it.

Chef Simone stated she would use the funds for signage to make her property more visible.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to consider Resolution No. 2025-14. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:

Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones. Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-14. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:

Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones. Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

J.4. *Resolved*, That Resolution No. 2025-15 Approves the award of economic funds per the New Business Incentive Program & Capital Improvement Program to Cash & Carry $30,000.00 (Economic Development Committee)

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to consider Resolution No. 2025-15. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins- Cash & Carry is under new management. They applied for a grant from the Economic Development Committee. They approved it. The building is dated and in need of repairs and the funds will allow them the ability to do the upgrades.
President Collins called for a roll call vote:

Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones. Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-15. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:

Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones. Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

J.5. *Resolved*, That Resolution No. 2025-17 Declare a stay on the demolition of 405 Kim Drive (Williams)

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to discuss Resolution No. 2025-17. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins opened the floor for discussions.

President Collins stated that the city should not demolish the property. She explained that the Stay Resolution addresses potential environmental concerns related to asbestos exposure for nearby residents. The structure is old, and during the time it was built, most contractors used asbestos-containing materials. When asbestos is disturbed, it releases harmful particles into the air, posing a potential health risk to the community. She added that if the city sells the property to an investor instead, it could avoid the environmental risk associated with demolition.

Councilman Williams stated that he also prefers the city sell the property rather than demolish it.

Councilwoman Moore responded that the Resolution Authorizing the Demolition, along with the agreement previously adopted by the council, already addresses asbestos concerns. She stated that if the contractor encounters asbestos-containing material, they are responsible for properly encapsulating it, disposing of it, and transporting all hazardous material to an ADEM approved disposal site located outside of the city limits. The city has to hold itself accountable for dilapidated property just like the city holds the residents.

Mayor Scott stated that after he spoke with Councilman Williams, he didn't mind working with him on this project. However, he prefers that if the council decides to grant the stay, a plan is in place to rehab the property as soon as possible.

President Collins called for a roll call vote.

Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

No: none
The motion passed unanimously.

There was no motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-17.

J.6. Discuss Transit Agreement

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to consider the Transit Agreement. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins opened the floor for discussion. Mayor Scott- the council requested that Transit add bus shelters in Center Point. We had a meeting with them, and they have added one to the community center. We are working with them to add additional

shelters.
President Collins called for a roll call vote.
Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones. Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to accept the Transit Agreement. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote:
Yes: Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones. Councilwoman Moore, Councilman Williams and President Collins

No: None
The motion passed unanimously.

K. Reports- Mayor & Committee Chairs

K.1. Economic Development/Park & Recreation- President D.M. Collins

President Collins congratulated Simone and Cash & Carry for being recipients of the grants.

K.2. Public Safety- Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr.

No report

K.3. Public Works- Councilwoman Tiffany Moore

No report

K.4. Education & Library- Councilwoman Sharon Jones

No report

K.5. Finance Report-Councilwoman Ebonee Copeland, Chair

No report

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.

Tameeka Vann, City Clerk

Approved:

D.M. Collins, President

Date: 4/17/2025

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