



LIBERTY HILL LH20 TASK FORCE
WEDNESDAY – April 5, 2023 - 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Liberty Hill Council Chamber / Municipal Court Building
2801 Ranch Road 1869, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

Task Force Members Present:

Jennifer Byrd
Tom Golden
Brian Williams
Chad Cormack
Steve Messana
Angela Jones

Task Force Members Absent:
Chris Pezold

City Staff:

Paul Brandenburg, City Administrator
Elaine Simpson, City Secretary
Curtis Steger, Steger and Bizzell Engineers
David Thomison, Interim Public Works Director
James Herrera, Public Works Project Manager
Trey Evans, Water Superintendent

Additional:

Liz Branigan, Mayor

2) Call to Order / Welcome / Introductions

Chair Brian Williams called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

3) Staff Announcements

All participants were urged to speak into the microphone in order to be heard on the meeting recording.

4) Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

5) Regular Items

- a) Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding the draft meeting minutes from the LH20 Meeting held March 1, 2023. (E. Simpson)

Motion: Motion by Tom Golden, seconded by Steve Messana, to approve, as presented, the meeting minutes from the first LH20 Task Force meeting held March 1, 2023. Vote on the Motion: Motion carried unanimously by a 6-0 vote. Ayes: Byrd, Williams, Golden, Jones, Messana and Cormack. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. With Chris Pezold absent.

- b) Update/ Report regarding Joint Water Meetings with Regional Partners. (P. Brandenburg, D. Thomison, T. Evans)

City Administrator Brandenburg introduced this item and presented the staff report. There was a discussion regarding the importance of taking a 'Regional Approach' to the water issues that the area faces. Public Works Interim Director David Thomison noted that he has requested a meeting with Leander, but it has not yet been officially scheduled.

There was no formal action on this item.

- c) Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding proposed project near Jinks Branch area, as discussed March 1, 2023. (D. Thomison, T. Evans and J. Herrera)

Director Thomison noted that at the last meeting, he had encouraged the tabling of consideration on this Jinks Branch area, in favor of the Angel Springs proposed project, which seemed to have better prospects.

There was consensus that Director Thomison and Superintendent Trey Evans will reach out to owners of Jinks Branch with questions regarding possible access.

No formal motion was made.

- d) Discussion, consideration, and possible action related to Angel Springs projects, as discussed at the March 1, 2023, meeting. (P. Brandenburg, D. Thomison, T. Evans, J. Herrera)

The following points were noted:

- The Task Force members discussed that this water would come from a well, so it will be groundwater, not surface water.
- For the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality approval of this water source, there will need to be one year of samples taken at regular intervals to establish the flow rate and the water quality.
- There is not a requirement that the city have a reservoir here.
- Most likely plan would be to pump the spring water to an elevated storage.
- There will need to be investigation to determine the depth that will be needed for the well.
- This project may need to be 'Phased.'
- The city at this point only disinfects water. Plans will be dependent on the quality of the water, if it requires being processed, instead of just disinfected.
- There was a brief discussion of the pipeline that would need to be constructed from the springs to the city's facilities. Early estimates are that it would be between two and two and a half miles.
- The Task Force members are not being asked to make a recommendation at this time on the project proposal.
- It is believed that Angel Springs provides water from the Edwards, not the Trinity Aquifer.
- At this time, the city attorneys are working to formalize/finalize the dedication of this area to the City as parkland.

There was general consensus to approve moving forward with the proposal, as submitted by RW Harden, and reviewed by the members tonight, and to get a cost estimate from Mr. Harden. City staff will pursue this direction.

No formal action was taken.

- e) City of Liberty Hill Long-Range Water Production Planning - Curtis Steger Engineering report dated March 2, 2022. Updated by Curtis Steger 3/29/2023.

City Engineer Steger presented a Power Point presentation that had originally been presented in March 2022, but he has updated with current figures.

- There was a discussion of the importance of conserving water, and possible recommendations. Currently we are required, at minimum, to match the Drought Stage restrictions of the City of Leander. This is part of the city's water contract.
- Vice Chair Jennifer Byrd noted that she has some marketing expertise that might be of use if the City Council desires that the city encourages more water conservation.

- There was a discussion of the city’s Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN).
- There was a brief discussion of the City’s water capacity, as reflected in the Power Point Presentation, as well as guesstimates of the capacity of the region for water.
- Slide 9 was a summary of water demand. The estimate will fall between the yellow and gray lines, depending upon if any of the boundaries change with the city’s water CCN. Engineer Steger believes that there will be water capacity available if the city manages the water effectively. It was noted that Carrizo Water was not included as a source of water on this slide presentation.
- The Task Force again discussed the importance of taking a regional approach for providing water.

There was no formal motion made on this agenda item.

6) Future Agenda Items

The following proposed ideas were identified as possible Future Agenda Items.

- Possible role of Homeowners Associations in the City (HOAs) related to promotion of water conservation practices, including possibly reduction of landscaping requirements.
- SmartWater – conservation/education.
- When is the city proposed to be at ‘Build out’ for our CCN?
- Verify figures for ‘actual gallons per minute per connection’ for the city water system.

7) Adjournment

Motion by Vice Chair Byrd, and 2nd unanimously, to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

Vote on the Motion: Motion carried unanimously by a unanimous vote.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE LH20 Task Force of the City of Liberty Hill, Texas on May, 2023, on vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Elaine Simpson
 Elaine Simpson, City Secretary

Chad Cormack
 Chair Brian Williams
 Chad Cormack
 Acting Chair

