



Meeting minutes  
City of Liberty Hill, TX  
Public Works Commission  
Regular Called Meeting,  
September 25, 2023  
6 PM Council Chamber,  
2801 CR 1869, Liberty Hill, TX 78642  
5:30 PM

**Public Works Commission Members present:**

Kyle Smith, Chair  
Jon Nolting, Vice Chair  
Robert Watson

**City Staff present:**

David Thomison, Director of Public Works  
James Herrera, Public Works Project Manager  
Elaine Simpson, City Secretary  
Curtis Steger, Steger & Bizzell  
Mayor Liz Branigan

Call to Order / Introductions / Welcome

Kyle Smith called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

**2) Public Comments**

*Regarding items not on this agenda/Public Comments: Those desiring to speak on a topic not listed on the agenda, please complete a speaker form and present it to the City Secretary before the meeting. Speakers will have three minutes each to speak, this time cannot be transferred or shared. Commissioners may not take action during this item and any responses will be limited to factual statements, recitation of existing policy, or request for the topic to be placed on a future agenda.*

*Regarding topics listed as an agenda item/During specific agenda item: Commissioners request that speakers complete a speaker form, indicate which agenda item they are interested in speaking about, and submit form to the City Secretary before the agenda item is addressed. Speaker forms may be emailed to the City Secretary before the meeting at [esimpson@libertyhilltx.gov](mailto:esimpson@libertyhilltx.gov).*

There were no public comments.

**3) Regular Agenda Items - The Commissioners may take action on all items listed on this agenda.**

- a) Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Meeting minutes from July 17, 2023, Public Works Commission Regular Called Meeting. (E. Simpson)

Robert Watson moved, and Jon Nolting seconded, to approve, as presented, the meeting minutes from the Commissions Regular meeting of July 17, 2023. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 3-0.

- b) Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Downtown Infrastructure and downtown Truck Route/ traffic issues. (D. Thompson, J.Herrera)

Public Works Project Manager James Herrera introduced the item and presented the city staff report. The research continues for options on setting a heavy/large truck route. City staff are still waiting to hear from the City Attorney office regarding the option for diverting this traffic to State Hwy 29. If legal approves this, we will take this concept to Engineering.

There was discussion of the project for installing a signal-controlled intersection at Bailey Lane and SH 29.

Mr. Herrera also briefed the Commissioners on various issues with the new traffic light at Ranch Road 1869 and Main Street. There have been complaints from motorists regarding the timing of the signal. This also exacerbates the problem with heavy trucks, because it takes so long for the larger/longer trucks to turn.

There was no formal action taken.

- c) Discussion and Update regarding Downtown Roundabout Project. (J.Herrera, D. Thomison).

Public Works Project Manager Herrera introduced this agenda item and presented the city staff report. The project is going well and is ahead of schedule. There have been some issues because

the original traffic management plan had to be changed. When this happened, city staff did not adequately notify the affected downtown businesses. This has caused some discontent.

There was no formal action taken.

- d) Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding intersection Ranch Road 1869/Main Street (formerly 332) possible projects: turn Lanes, traffic study, TXDOT coordination, light timing/scheduling, signage. (J. Herrera, P. Brandenburg)

City Engineer Curtis Steger introduced the agenda item and presented the staff report. He presented the Main Street Lane Reconfiguration presentation and explained that this agenda item will also be on the City Council agenda at their meeting on Wednesday (September 27, 2023).

Commissioner Watson asked if the time formatting could be changed because the AM/PM and PM/AM indicators were confusing.

Mr. Steger explained that some of these numbers are just preliminary and were collected from the Liberty Hill Independent School District (LHISD) report. Their traffic report was also done before work started on the Roundabout project downtown. It was done when school was in session.

There was an extended discussion of lane configuration: Left Turn Lane configuration versus dedicated Right Turn Lane configuration.

There was a brief discussion regarding the future 'Bypass' and the effect that may have on other city infrastructure. The Southwest Bypass Lift Station may need to be moved 100 feet.

There was a brief discussion of parking issues being experienced downtown.

There was no formal action taken.

- e) Discussion, consideration, and possible action related to posted speed limit study of public roads. (P. Brandenburg)

Mr. Herrera explained that the city staff doesn't have these numbers yet. These will be requested from the Police Department and this item will come back on a future agenda.

There was no formal action taken.

- f) Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Hands-Free device ordinance. (P. Brandenburg)

Public Works Director David Thomison explained that like the agenda item 3.e., this item also will need to be postponed to a future meeting. By consensus, the Commissioners decided to postpone consideration of item 3e. and 3f. until the Chief of Police Royce Graeter could attend the meeting.

There was a brief discussion of signage for a 'Cell Phone Free Zone' (for motorists) downtown. Then there was a brief discussion of 'Hands Free'/Self driving cars. Chief Graeter will be asked if he can speak at a future meeting to how the City of Austin regulates these cars. The commissioners then looked up on Texas Legislature website, that there may be Statute language passed at the 2017 Legislative Session that prohibits cities from regulating self-driving cars at all.

There was no formal action taken.

4) City Staff Summary Remarks / Announcements /Identify Future Agenda Items

Items 3e. and 3f. will return on a future agenda when Police Chief Graeter can attend the meeting.

5) Adjournment

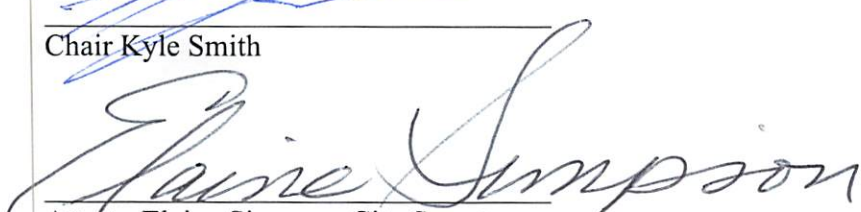
Next Commission Meeting October 16, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

At 6:35 PM Chair Smith adjourned the meeting.

Meeting minutes approved by a vote of 3 Ayes, to 0 Nays on

Oct. 16, 2023, 2023.

  
Chair Kyle Smith

  
Attest: Elaine Simpson, City Secretary

