

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
CONROE CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017 – 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER
CALL OF ROLL

PRESENT: Mayor Powell
Mayor Pro Tem Coon
Council Members Gibson, Martin, Ham and Snider
City Administrator Paul Virgadamo
City Attorney Marc Winberry
Assistant City Secretary Sami H. Randles

ABSENT: City Secretary Soco M. Gorjón

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mayor Powell.

The meeting agenda, which was posted in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, was presented.

Agenda folders containing data relating to agenda items had been furnished to Council Members prior to the meeting of the Council.

Agenda items were considered by the Council. The action taken concerning such item is shown on the official Council Action Sheet attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.

After all business properly brought before the Council had been considered, City Council adjourned.



Toby Powell, Mayor

ATTEST:




Sami H. Randles, Assistant City Secretary

Mayor Powell recognized Police Officer Hurd.

AMEND OR REPEAL CITY OF CONROE 2017 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mayor Powell thanked Senators Creighton and Nichols, Representatives Metcalf, Keough and Bell for all they do for the City. Mayor Powell also addressed Council and read a letter that expressed the purpose of the meeting, and pointed out that the proposed hiring price of law firm Booth Ahrens Werkenthin would be \$25,000. He expressed that Council was accountable to the citizens on all matters and cost expenditures. Councilman Gibson concurred with Mayor Powell and pointed out that Council moved in haste, and stated that he felt that Carolyn Ahrens could handle this program. Councilman Martin expressed that he was in agreement with the City changing directions and thanked Councilman Ham for his efforts and willingness to assist in the program. Councilman Martin stated Councilman Ham did nothing wrong. Mayor Pro Tem Coon stated we were defined by the way we tackle decisions and expressed his respect for Councilman Ham; but he concurred that the decision to engage the law firm in Austin was the best decision. Councilman Snider thanked Councilman Ham and expressed his concerns in the fact that we needed a lobbyist with more experience in Austin. Councilman Ham thanked all the citizens and was encouraged that the City was investing in a professional lobbyist firm. He also stated that he was elected to work for the citizens of Conroe. Councilman Ham discussed a comprehensive tax plan to cut taxes and stop wasteful spending. He also encouraged each department head to save money. Mayor Pro Tem Coon commented there was a chain of command that should be followed and that Council works as a complete governing body, the budget was approved for this year and that he did not agree that the City was spending money unwisely. Mayor Pro Tem Coon thanked department heads and City Administrator for their work on the budget. Mayor Powell pointed out that Council worked as a team to accomplish many goals.

A motion was made by Councilman Ham, seconded by Councilman Snider to repeal the City of Conroe 2017 Legislative Program as adopted by City Council on January 26, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFY OR TERMINATE LEASE WITH MARY DENNY FOR 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

A motion was made by Councilman Ham, seconded by Councilman Martin to terminate a lease with Mary Denny for residential premises in Austin, Texas for the period of the 85th Texas Legislature. The motion carried unanimously.

RETAIN MICHAEL BOOTH AND/OR BOOTH AHRENS WERKENTHIN

Mayor Powell advised he has spoken with several lobbying firms including Randy Lee that could provide additional assistance, if needed.

A motion was made by Councilman Ham, seconded by Councilman Gibson to retain Booth Ahrens Werkenthin, PC to provide lobbying services on behalf of the City of Conroe at the 85th Texas Legislature as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Councilman Martin moved to adjourn the meeting, and Councilman Gibson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.