# Item #4

## PROCLAMATION AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the citizens of our community have long been aware of the historic achievements and contributions of individuals; and

WHEREAS, the linkage of these contributions to education is recognized; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, free, great nation, these contributions would not have been possible; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and appreciate the culture, language, lifestyle, diversities and corresponding aesthetic values of all Americans, including African Americans; and

WHEREAS, all of these contributions have made our city, state and nation the great society it has become.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Sharon Foerster, serving as Mayor of the City of Smithville, do hereby proclaim February as

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

and urge all citizens and institutions of the City and Community to reaffirm their commitment to promoting awareness of, and appreciation for, the African American Heritage and its place in American Society.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Smithville, Texas to be affixed, this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

	Sharon Foerster, Mayor
Attest:	

Jennifer Lynch, City Secretary



## Overview of the History, Structure and Scope of the Smithville Workforce Training Center

The Smithville Workforce Training Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed initially as a partnership among the City of Smithville, the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Smithville Community Clinic to address the economic development objective of promoting a skilled workforce through training. Initial funding came from the City (ARPA funds) and a grant from St. David's Foundation.

The project originally started under the umbrella of an existing 501(c)(3) corporation, Smithville Community Outreach, which was established and managed by the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce to serve as an entity under which charitable projects of limited scope or duration could operate.

Following the initial success and rapid expansion of the scope of the project, a Certificate of Amendment was filed with the Texas Secretary of State on July 12, 2022 changing the name to Smithville Workforce Training Center and removing it from oversight of the Chamber. This paved the way for a more aggressive pursuit of funding, training, and facilities provision partnerships. The first training classes began in January, 2022, and as of November 22, 2022, 15 classes have been conducted, with 157 students attending.

#### **Guiding principles of the SWTC**

Mission Statement – The mission of the Smithville Workforce Training Center is to create opportunity for local area residents and employers by providing high quality training, education, and placement services.

Vision Statement – A skilled, educated, and diverse local workforce that provides on-going opportunities for both employers and employees and sustains a high quality of life,

#### Core Values -

RESPECT We value and respect the rights, differences, and dignity of others.

COMPASSION We are genuinely concerned about people and meeting their needs.

SUSTAINABILITY We are committed to sustainable development and the ongoing success of SWTC and

our local economy.

INTEGRITY We assume positive intent, practice direct and supportive communication, and

maintain a high standard of confidentiality and honesty.

INNOVATION We challenge ourselves and each other and strive to continually improve by

embracing new ideas, new technology and new approaches.

Even though the SWTC is an independent organization, the composition of the Board of Directors reflects the community it serves, and the operational goals and guidelines are determined by our funding partners. Because the Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area organization is our major funding partner, and our mission is in alignment with theirs, the history of the creation of that organization is important to gaining a perspective on the operational and sustainability objectives of the SWTC.

## **Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

The Texas Legislature created the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in 1995 and consolidated the state's employment related education and job training programs. They also gave the TWC responsibility for administering the Unemployment Insurance and labor law programs. Three years later in 1998, the 105th Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to consolidate, coordinate and improve employment, training, literacy and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States. Together, these state and federal legislative actions changed the way local employment and training services were delivered in Texas.

One of the biggest changes was the creation and privatization of 28 local workforce development boards that are located through the State of Texas. The local workforce development boards are appointed by the County Judges of the service area and the Mayor of the largest city in the service area. Workforce development boards are responsible for planning, overseeing, setting policy and monitoring the service delivery system. Local workforce development boards emphasize employer needs when they design their service delivery system. Thus, the Chairperson of each local board and the majority of its members must come from the private sector.

#### **Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area (WSRCA)**

Workforce development boards in Texas have led the country in the implementation of the new legislation by obtaining waivers to provide greater flexibility and through early implementation of the Workforce Investment Act. Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area has certainly been a major part of this success and is consistently considered one of the highest performing workforce development boards in the state.

WSRCA Service Area

Liano

Surnet

Georgetown

Johnson City

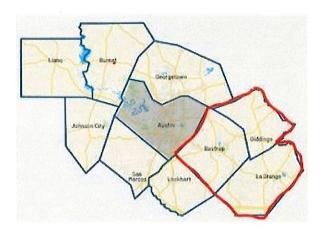
Austra

Bastrop

Lackhart

La Grange

SWTC Service Area



#### **SWTC Service Area**

Our service area is currently a three-county subset of the WSRCA service area, Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee. We are currently being asked to add service to Caldwell County. This is under consideration, and would be funded by WSRCA as an addendum to the current funding agreement.

#### **Board of Directors**

Chair – Dr. Jill Strube Director of Economic Development and Grant Administration, COS

Vice Chair – Dr. Linda Wilson Bastrop County Cares, Smithville Whole Health Partnership

Treasurer – Joanna Morgan Council Member, COS

Secretary – Micah Oliver

Anthony Barrientos

Doug Berryann

Alan Butler

Willy Culberson

Daniel Hrna

Edward Jones

Trubar Diesel

Doug's Plumbing

Butler Construction

Community Volunteer

Jake LeBlanc Towers Nursing Home Administrator

Sharlotte Seidel Calbri Logistics

Sharlene Scheler Wesleyan Nurse Program, Smithville Whole Health Partnership

Diana Villalobos Smithville Headstart Program

Debbie Denny Community Volunteer

Jace Jones Ex Officio Board Member, Ascension Seton

Dr. Bethany Logan Ex Officio Board Member, SISD

## **Staffing**

Executive Director - April Daniels

Director of Programs – Stewart Burns (also serves as Bastrop County Coordinator)

Director of Operations – Leah Stinson (also serves as Case Manager)

County Coordinator, Fayette County – Steph Smith (also serves as Sustainability Coordinator)

County Coordinator, Lee County – Janice Bruno (also serves as Health Education Coordinator)

Student Mentor - New Hire

Administrative Support - Becky Friend

## **Educational Partners**

#### **CURRENT TRAINING PARTNERS:**

- Austin Community College (All pathways: Medical, Skilled Trades, I.T./Finance)
- Regency Healthcare (CNA & Med. Aide)
- Central TX Allied Health Institute (Phlebotomy, Med. Aide)
- Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas (I.T, Finance-QB/Cyber Security, GED/ESL)
- Texas Public Service Training Academy (EMS/Paramedic)
- GAF Roofing (Roofing)
- Career Steps (online training provider)
- Career Academy of Texas (Phlebotomy, Med. Asst., Med. Aide, CNA)

#### **FUTURE TRAINING PARTNERS (Good Jobs Challenge):**

- Central Health Centers of Texas (LCDC training)
- Victoria College (LVN training)
- Lee County EMS (EMS/Paramedic training)
- Butler Construction (on-the-job skills training/general construction training)
- Blinn Community College (All pathways Medical, Skilled Trades, IT/Finance)
- Blinn RELLIS (LVN/CDL)
- Charity Rogers, LLC (behavioral health LCDC)
- Local Union 520 Electricians & Plumbers (Electrical/Plumbing training)
- Winn's Career Education (Plumbing training)
- University of Texas at Arlington (Nurse Practitioner/RN training)
- BrainStation (I.T. training)

## **Funding Partners**

St. David's Foundation	\$50,000 (1)	2021	Planning & Implementation
Smithville Hospital Authority	\$25,000	2021	Implementation of medical classroom facilities/training
Union Pacific	\$10,000	2021	Medical classroom facilities/signage
<b>Scholarship Donations</b>	\$2,400	2021	Student scholarships
City of Smithville (ARP)	\$100,000	2021	General operating costs/facility upgrades
St. David's Foundation	\$50,000 (2)	2022	Planning & Implementation
Born Again Emporium	\$17,500	2022	General operating costs
BCACH	\$12,000	2022	General operating costs
Bastrop County (ARP year 1)	\$250,000	2022	Operations/Facility Upgrades/Tuition/Wrap-Around Svcs.
Bastrop County (ARP year 2)	\$250,000	2023	Operations/Facility Upgrades/Tuition/Wrap-Around Svcs.
Bastrop County (ARP year 3)	\$250,000	2024	Operations/Facility Upgrades/Tuition/Wrap-Around Svcs.
TRUE Grant	\$50,000	2023	Skilled trades buildout consultant
St. David's Foundation	\$300,000	2023	Mentor and SISD Upgrades
WSRCA Good Jobs (year 1)	\$1,630,000	2023	Backbone organization for 3 training pathways
WSRCA Good Jobs (year 2)	\$1,630,000	2024	Backbone organization for 3 training pathways
WSRCA Good Jobs (year 3)	\$1,630,000	2025	Backbone organization for 3 training pathways

## **REINVEST Employer Partners**

See attached report (EXH A)

## **Facility Partners**

SWTC is currently working to secure training sites in Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties. This will be an ongoing process through 2022 & 2023.

- City of Smithville 404 Fawcett, Riverbend Park Pavilion
- Smithville United Methodist Church Education Building for medical classes

- Smithville Independent School District Two classrooms at Mary A. Brown for IT classes
- Smithville Community Clinic Dental bus and House of Ruth
- Ascension Seton of Smithville clinical site
- Regency Healthcare clinical site
- City of Elgin City owned facilities (tour schedule 12/5)
- City of Bastrop Bastrop Power & Light building, Bastrop Public Library (tour scheduled 11/28)
- Blinn Community College (Schulenburg) (toured on 11/2)
- Giddings EDC Providing multiple training sites for all pathways (State school, privately owned site)
- Community Action Genesis campus (Bastrop) & LGISD med. bldg. (La Grange)

## **Training Conducted to Date**

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Emergency Medical Technician
- GED/ESL
- QuickBooks
- H.V.A.C.
- GAF Roofing
- Welding/Arch Welding

## **Training Planned through June 2023**

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Certified Medication Aide
- Respiratory Therapist
- C.D.L.
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Construction Management
- Dental Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Surgical Technician
- Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor
- Financial Services Officer
- Information Technology:
  - UX Design, Software Engineering (still planning other courses)
- Bookkeeping/QB
- GED/ESL





# Bird Houses and Other Public Service Projects for Smithville



Norman Jones
Norm.jones@customtechnology.com
(512) 731-6050
January 10, 2023



## Rotary Club Public Service Projects for Smithville

- Support Smithville character and values
- Public service projects for city
  - Bird houses
  - Bike racks
  - Benches or other projects



## Summary of Bird Houses for City of Smithville

- A public service project for public spaces such as city parks or City Hall
  - Support of protecting the environment and education
- Provide houses for birds native to or migrating through our portion of Central Texas
  - Support "our feathered friends"
  - Help maintain a natural environment in rural or suburban areas
  - Provide supplemental shelter for wildlife (e.g., native birds) while discouraging predators
  - Houses are available for songbirds (Texas Bluebirds, etc.), ducks, or bats
- Install at locations such as Riverbend Park and Railroad Museum/Chamber area

## Proposed Bird Houses



## Descriptive Label for Bird Houses

- Rotary
  Club of Bastrop County
  Serving the Community since 1990
- Label for birdhouses 5.2"wx7"h
- Either "Rough surface sticker" or PVC/aluminum sign on side





## Predator Control for Bird Houses

www.thespruce.com/protecting-bird-houses-from-predators-386633

- Protect nesting bird from predators such as racoons, squirrels, or snakes
- Mounting bird house on pole (e.g., "T post") is a viable approach
  - Predators can readily climb trees
  - · Flexible placement of bird house location



EasyGo Product Squirrel Proof Bird Feeder Baffle Guard – Pol Mount and Hanging - Powder Coated Steel – Wrap Around Heavy-Duty Steel Design – Includes All Accessories – Black 17 in Diameter – 1 Pack

Brand: EasyGo Product

★★★★ - 1,270 ratings | 23 answered question

Price: \$18.99

BUSINESS SAVINGS EVENT: Stock up on cari't-miss deals + Earn 5 % Back with yout Amazon Busines American Express Card.\*

Baffle guard for mounting pole



Stovepipe guard for mounting pole

## Smithville Has potential for "Bird City Certification" and Proposed Bird Houses can Support This



Question: Does Smithville want to do the application and steps for this certification?

https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas/how





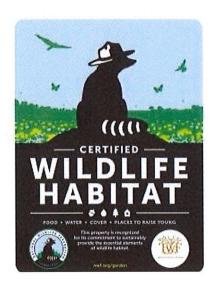
## Program Timeline

- June 1, 2022: Application period re-opens for all communities
- November 1, 2022: Applications must be started by this date. The portal will close to new applications on this date.
- . December 2, 2022: 2022 Bird City applications due
- . January 31, 2023: Annual report due for currently certified communities

## Possible Locations for Bird Houses in Smithville

- Located on City owned property
- Railroad museum/Smithville Chamber: 1-2 Native songbird (e.g., Bluebird)
- Riverbend Park:
  - 2+ Native songbird in open areas but near trees
  - · Wood Duck on banks of the Colorado River
  - · Possible bat or owl house
- At garden area near highways 71 and 95

## Smithville Parks, etc. as Certified Wildlife Habitat



www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat

The **NWF program** certifies wildlife-friendly land for homeowners, businesses, schools, universities, places of worship, parks, and community-based organizations as community wildlife habitats.

## **Approach**

- City of Smithville decides on projects including locations of birdhouses (e.g., five)
  - Example: Riverbend park, Railroad/Smithville Chamber area
  - Augment Rotary members with "birders" such as Audubon Society
- · Let people know these birdhouses exist and the purpose
- Assess results and next steps
- Rotary Club (ideally with the public) maintains the houses such as checking at lest twice a year
- Birdhouses will weather and eventually need replacement for a limited cost and time
- We will have a similar effort in Bastrop

## Additional Considerations

- Support of wildlife is also relevant to the rural character of Smithville
- Growth and development is happening and can be beneficial
- Support of appropriate growth/development is desirable
- One aspect of that can be an approach for support of Texas Ag based upon "Wildlife/open space" for Texas Ag 1-d-1
  - One example is our Kovar Ponds Ranch south of Smithville where we (and our neighbors) support wildlife
  - We are in process of installing many native bird, Wood Duck, and bat houses with predator guards as part of this

Bench at Smithville Chamber/Railroad Park



## **Example of Outdoor Bench**



- This was made at Smithville HS but a version could be made by a Smithville area business
- Could have custom decorative/functional features made using CNC plasma cutter by a Smithville area business

## Little Library at Smithville City Hall



Stocked with books from "Born Again Emporium"

Bike Rack Dedication Ceremony at Bastrop Public Library

Potential opportunity: make custom bike



- Encourage bicycling
  - · Good for people, environment, and businesses
- Custom Bike racks to emulate the historic bridge in Bastrop
- Installed Oct 2022
- Made for Rotary Club by students and then a local Smithville area business

# Item # 5

## CITY OF SMITHVILLE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**JANUARY 9, 2023** 

Present: Mayor Sharon Foerster, Councilmembers Janice Bruno, Bill Gordon, Tom Etheredge, Joanna Morgan, Cassie Barrientos, and City Manager Robert Tamble.

**Open Meeting:** Call to order: Mayor Foerster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Karen Beck gave the Invocation Councilman Etheredge led the Pledge.

Recognition/Awards/Proclamations/Announcements/Presentations:

- a) Proclamation for It's Time Texas: Proclamation was read by Andy Esquivel
- b) Proclamation for "Martin Luther King Jr. Day": Proclamation read by Councilman Gordon.
- c) Presentation on the Smithville Workforce Training Center: This presentation was postponed until next month's meeting.

## Citizen Comments: None

Approval of the minutes from December 12, 2022, City Council Meeting and Public Hearing. Councilman Etheredge made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Bruno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Hear from the Applicant/Agent on all P&Z Application requests. Ramon and Denise San Luis explained their need for the Special Use Permit to the Council.

Hear recommendations from Planning and Zoning on:

- a) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 415 Gazley St., parcel ID 21426, Wilson Addition Block 1 lot 6, property owner Lilian Goodwin, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services. Brian Riewe said P&Z recommended approval of the variances.
- b) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 611 Gazley St., parcel ID 21522, Wilson Addition Block 3 lot 14, property owner Barbara Nell Hurd, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services. Brian Riewe said P&Z recommended approval of the variances.
- c) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 203 Washington St., parcel ID 77885, Smithville Townsite, Block 71 Lot 5, property owner Maria A Sanchez, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services. Brian Riewe said P&Z recommended approval of the variances.

### **Public Hearing:**

Hear Citizen Comments on:

- a) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 415 Gazley St., parcel ID 21426, Wilson Addition Block 1 lot 6, property owner Lilian Goodwin, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services. No one signed up to speak for or against this item.
- b) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 611 Gazley St., parcel ID 21522, Wilson Addition Block 3 lot 14, property owner Barbara Nell Hurd, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services. No one signed up to speak for or against this item.
- c) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 203 Washington St., parcel ID 77885, Smithville Townsite, Block 71 Lot 5, property owner Maria A Sanchez, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services. No one signed up to speak for or against this item.

## **Open Meeting:**

### Discussion and Action on

- a) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 415 Gazley St., parcel ID 21426, Wilson Addition Block 1 lot 6, property owner Lilian Goodwin, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services.
- b) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 611 Gazley St., parcel ID 21522, Wilson Addition Block 3 lot 14, property owner Barbara Nell Hurd, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services.
- c) A variance request for minimum lot size and minimum lot width for 203 Washington St., parcel ID 77885, Smithville Townsite, Block 71 Lot 5, property owner Maria A Sanchez, agent Karen Walker and Lacie Koska Langford Community Management Services.

Councilman Etheredge made a motion to approve all variances at 415 Gazley, 611 Gazley and 203 Washington the variance is not contrary to the public interest, and there are special conditions affecting the applicant's property; and because of the special conditions, literal enforcement of the ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship; and the variance observes the spirit of the ordinance, and substantial justice is done. Councilwoman Barrientos seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the appointment / re-appointment of members to the Smithville Hospital Authority Board: The Smithville Hospital Authority shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of seven (7) members. Three (3) directors (Places 2, 4 and 6) shall be appointed by the City Council and the board of directors shall appoint four (4) members (Places 1, 3, 5 and 7). Each of said directors shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired terms. Places 1, 3, 5 and 7 shall be appointed for terms ending in even-numbered years and Places

2, 4, and 6 shall be appointed for terms ending in odd-numbered years. All terms shall expire February 3rd. The following appointments are being recommended. If approved, these reappointments will expire in February 2025:

Ann Fulcher – Re-appointment Mark Bunte – Re-appointment Jimmy Trousdale – Re-appointment

Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the reappointment of Ann Fulcher, Mark Bunte, and Jimmy Trousdale. Councilwoman Bruno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on a Resolution Calling for the May 6, 2023, Municipal General Election: Approving this resolution is required for holding Councilmember and Mayoral elections in May. Three places will be on the ballot: Place 1 - currently held by Joanna Morgan, Place 2 - currently held by Tom Etheredge, and the Place 3 – currently held by Bill Gordon. New and incumbent candidates may file beginning January 18, 2023. Candidate packets are available at City Hall. The deadline to file is February 17, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Bruno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on Entering into a Joint Elections Contract with the Elections Administrator of Bastrop County to conduct the City of Smithville's May 6, 2023, General Election: Approving this contract establishes the terms, conditions, and responsibilities necessary to conduct a joint election with the County. Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to approve the contract. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## Citizen Comments: Susie Cannon spoke as the new Chamber Director

Discussion and Discussion and Action on a contract with the Smithville Chamber of Commerce for Hotel Occupancy Tax Services: The agreement (contract) specifies the terms, conditions, allocation, use, and recordkeeping for HOT funds that the City of Smithville provides the Smithville Chamber of Commerce. All uses and expenditures of HOT Funds shall be conducted in accordance with the uses permitted by Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code, and all other applicable laws and regulations. The agreement also requires Chamber maintain the HOT funds provided by the City a separate account, and the Chamber shall not commingle the funds in that account with any other money, or maintain them in any other account. The term of the agreement is for three (3) years. Councilwoman Bruno made a motion to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Agreement. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action regarding Delinquent Utility Accounts: Prior to COVID-19, a concentrated effort was made to reduce the number of past-due utility accounts by limiting the number of days a customer is allowed to be delinquent. In the past, many utility customers with delinquent accounts (exceeding 90-days) were allowed to continue receiving services if the customer made payment arrangements. With 10% late penalties accruing each month (and continued utility usage), many customers simply could not honor their agreements. As a result, their utility services were

disconnected and the delinquent account(s) were sent to a collection agency. This is revenue the city will very likely never recover. In fact, the City has incurred more than \$701k in lost utility revenue associated with delinquent accounts over the past 10 years. Beginning June 1, 2023, utility customers with past due accounts greater than 30 days will have their service disconnected. There are three (3) exceptions to this rule:

- 1) Temperatures over 100oF in the summer;
- 2) Temperatures below 32oF in the winter; and/or
- 3)A life-threatening medical condition (certified by a licensed medical professional) that would be exacerbated by disconnecting service.

Per Article 13.03.003 (4) of our City Ordinance, "Services shall be interrupted to any customer whose account is five (5) days delinquent. In the event that the 5th day falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or holiday, service interruption shall occur on the first following working day." We are not quite ready to ratchet down to 5-days as this situation was not created overnight. Ultimately, establishing a 30-day past-due limit will benefit both the customer and the City by reducing the delinquent utility customer's balance to something manageable while enabling a more reliable payment of utility services provided. The city staff will send out notices well in advance of the June 1, 2023 deadline to give customers with past due balances additional time to settle their accounts. Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to approve the action by sending out a notice as the City Manager defines. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the approval of the Financial Report. Councilman Etheredge made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Meeting: Went into Executive Session at 6:45 PM

The City Council will hold an Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Govt. Code, Vernon's Texas Code Annotated, in accordance with the authority contained in Section 551.074, to discuss personnel (annual evaluation of the City Manager).

Open Meeting: Came out of Executive Session at 8:13 PM

Discussion and Action as a result of the Executive Session: Councilman Etheredge moved to approve the City Manager's 3% merit raise and to make it retroactive to October 8, 2022. Councilwoman Bruno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 8:14 p.m.	
Attest:	Sharon Foerster, Mayor
Jennifer Lynch, City Secretary	