

STATE OF TEXAS *

COUNTY OF HENDERSON *

CITY OF GUN BARREL CITY *

The City Council of the City of Gun Barrel City, Texas met in a special meeting, in City Hall, located at 1716 West Main Street, Gun Barrel City, Texas, on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Eaton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Roll was called and a quorum established.

[Council Member - Rodney Bevill: Present](#)

[Council Member - Melvyn Hayes: Present](#)

[Mayor - Paul Eaton: Present](#)

[Council Member - Dennis Baade: Present](#)

[Council Member - Curtis Webster: Present](#)

[Council Member - Marty Goss: Present](#)

ITEM # 1: Convene into Executive Session Pursuant to Local Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney about pending or contemplated litigation regarding EDC President’s threatened litigation.

Mayor Eaton recessed the meeting to go into Executive Session at 5:02 p.m.

ITEM # 2: Reconvene into Open Session to discuss whether to deliberate the evaluation, duties and discipline of the EDC President in contemplation of possible dismissal.

Mayor Eaton reconvened into Open Session at 5:13 p.m. Ms. Rankin, the EDC President, chose to have this item in open session.

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Attorney Bill Krueger said he had seen that there had been an agenda item placed that asked for discussion from the Council with regard to the evaluation, duties and discipline of Ms. Rankin, the President of the EDC. He understood that this was brought up for reasons and the Council was now tasked with the duty of deciding whether or not to proceed forward and have another hearing pursuant to the Charter after the proper notice and the expiration of ten days to decide whether there was discipline or removal of Ms. Rankin. He thought Council was now tasked to decide and to deliberate here in public at

Ms. Rankin's request what the reasons may be with regard to this agenda item and any potential motion and vote that may occur. Normally that was something the Mayor might start off with the discussion.

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Mayor Eaton commented that Linda was newly appointed almost a year ago and they had been through a process of giving her the time of when she was first appointed, the honeymoon session, or whatever, and then had gone into the stage of well maybe she needs some coaching and from there maybe a little pushing. It moved beyond that. At this point, as Mayor, he felt they had come to the point that they had no alternative but to make a decision.

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Baade said he had been on the Eastwood Island POA with Linda for seven years and she had nothing but worked hard for the community. He felt her heart was in the right place; she's all about Gun Barrel City. She had worked with the Mayor on the event center study. She was talented and hard working. He was in for giving Linda a second chance.

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Webster said one of the things that bothered him was the disrespect for elected officials. One was when Linda was having a meeting with Dennis Baade, the Mayor and City Manager and she got mad and walked out on the Mayor and the City Manager from the meeting. In a public meeting she accused, in front of the public, the City Manager of sabotage. Specifically she had ignored the EDC bylaws several times including incurring expenses without the Boards approval. One example was two weeks ago when she hired a credit company without the Board's approval and incurred an expense and entered into a contract with the credit company. Another time she did a reception without the Board's approval.

Webster said he had been appointed to the EDC in 2004 right after the EDC sued the City and the City counter sued the EDC over a disagreement with the City by the EDC. It went to court and the City won. The reason the City won was because the governing body of the corporation's authorizing units may remove a director for cause or at will. There had been a number of things. Linda had been a good member of the EDC but as far as being President Webster thought it was time for a new President.

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Hayes said he had tried to warn the City Manager and the Mayor that if they let Marty Goss stay on the committee over the EDC that this was going to happen. He and Linda had never gotten along. Hayes had a friend on the Charter Review Committee that said the whole time she was on there that Marty and Linda had friction. Hayes thought Linda was a very smart lady and he agreed that she had made some mistakes. She tried to do it all herself. When you are a head of a committee, you want the committee to do it not yourself. He felt she tried to do too much. He felt that was the good heart that she had and all that she had done had been to benefit the City of Gun Barrel.

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Goss agreed that Linda had done some excellent work for the City when she was part of a team and an individual. She did some excellent work on the research for the event center. It was a single project that she was on with the Mayor and they did great work. The biggest problem was with the management role of the EDC. That's not to say she's not a good person; it's not saying she's not a good worker. Every person on the EDC Board had approached her to try to give her hints on how to get along better, to do things better, to facilitate things better. One of the Council members met with her three times trying to advise her to give her some helpful hints and suggestions. It didn't work; it went down a different path. It's not saying she's a bad person or she's doing anything wrong. She tries extremely hard but when you're part of a team you have to disperse things. You have to have the team help you do these things. You can't keep everything to yourself and then spring it on them at the last second. It's not that she's not trying hard; she puts in a ton of hours. You need someone in that role with good management skills. Goss knew numerous people on the Board had tried to help her with this but to no avail. This is strictly business. This is not a personal issue.

The task force had been developed and set up by a group of the EDC Board members and two of the Council members. A lot of people attend the meetings and a lot of things have gotten done. These things always go back to the EDC for approval so no power has been taken from the EDC. Everything goes back to the EDC. Things got tougher and tougher so there was a little clash here that needed to be changed so things can run smoothly.

The Mayor thought it was very unfortunate that it had to come to this point today. She had done a great job as his campaign manager two years ago and a number of other duties for the City.

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Rankin said she had been a manager for the last ten years. She did understand management. She understood delegation. That's how come they had a committee for Boots to Business. They had a committee for every project they worked on. She was not doing all of the work but she oversaw all of the projects. Whenever you have interference with someone above you and you're trying to make things remain smooth and calm for all of your Board members, it's pretty difficult when the dignitary above you is going to your Board and making trouble. All that manager can do at that point is hope and pray that they've done something right.

In her work she had followed the laws, she read the laws, she had integrity, and she took care of details which they found to be a problem. She was not careless. The money of this City was very important to her. She would not see it spent recklessly. Therefore, whatever she had done was for a certain cause and for a reason. She had been underhanded on so many things and she had written documentation to show it. And, if at any time, if anyone had ever called or asked, she could have shown it to them. You never once asked what evidence she had to show that she was innocent. For that she blamed every one of the Council that didn't call her. She could truthfully say that Mr. Baade, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Bevill had called her. They know for a fact and have seen the truth. The others of you that have an agenda and think that as a woman that I might not be able to manage, I can, I have and I will. It may not be in this role but I have the skills and I will make it happen.

Rankin had projects going on with the EDC right now and there were two or three that would fold so keep that in mind as you make your vote. You will also be ruining our Board because there will be some people resigning. If you want to attack my character and integrity, you need to take a look at yourselves first.

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Bill Krueger said the City Council could reply to Ms. Rankin and then they could further deliberate the issue.

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Webster said this wasn't a decision based on whether you like somebody or not but rather what was best for the City. You have a divided Board of Directors in conflict with each other. The Council appoints the Board of Directors and it is up to them whether a member is kept on the Board or not. The ultimate authority under the by-laws is the governing body of the corporation's authorizing unit. The governing body may remove a Director for cause or at will.

Wasn't Linda removed from some of these committees? Boots to Business? The advisory liaison from the Council didn't agree with having her on the committee. Webster liked Linda but he was concerned about doing what was right for the City.

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Goss didn't think they had attacked her character, honesty, dignity or anything else. The Montana project was a good example. A Council member had a conference with Linda three times asking her to do some things to be more helpful. Finally, that Council member removed her from the Montana project which was a very big project for the City. Goss said if he was incorrect, correct him. Baade said there were not two or three events. Baade did remove her but there was only one event. It was when she walked out of a meeting with the Mayor and Baade didn't think that was the right thing to do. Goss stood corrected.

Webster said this had nothing to do with her being a woman. Absolutely nothing and he didn't know why she said that. It had everything to do with what was best for the City.

Goss continued by saying that she was spending EDC money to send task force minutes to the EDC attorney to review to see if they were doing anything wrong. Goss saw the replay from the attorney and knew what his opinion was. Rankin said the attorney watched the video. Goss already knew he was not in violation of anything. The attorney verified that Goss was not in violation of anything. The task force was moving things forward and working well together. Instead of being a team member you have become an obstruction. It's not that Rankin didn't work hard or that she wasn't a good person, it's just that there was business to be taken care of and they needed to move forward.

Council Member - Marty Goss: Motion to take a vote on whether to send an official statement of intent to remove the EDC President, Linda Rankin pursuant to Section 8 of the Gun Barrel City Charter

Council Member - Curtis Webster: 2nd

Council Member - Rodney Bevill: Disapprove

Council Member - Melvyn Hayes: Disapprove

Mayor - Paul Eaton: N/A

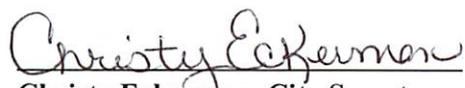
Council Member - Dennis Baade: Disapprove

Council Member - Curtis Webster: Approve

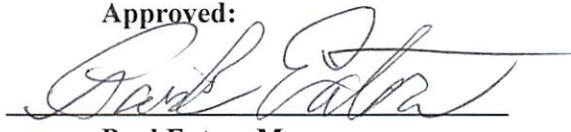
Council Member - Marty Goss: Approve

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Attest:


Christy Eckerman, City Secretary

Approved:


Paul Eaton, Mayor