

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

JANUARY 6, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Freddie Taylor called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

Mayor Freddie Taylor
Mayor Pro Tem Kayla Price
Councilman Craig Johnson
Councilman Oscar Aguilar
Councilwoman Emily Glass
Councilman John Sellers

Absent: Councilman Clay Walker

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Peter Karstens, Finance Director
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Taylor led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag as well as the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None.

MANAGER'S REPORT

STREETS, WATER AND SEWER - The Lamar Street reconstruction project began on Monday. This ½ mile project will replace water main, sewer main and street at a cost of \$766,700. The project will extend from College to Beckham.

On-deck is a water main replacement project on FM 2285. This project will replace 2.5 miles of undersized and dilapidated water main at a cost of \$862,800. The project will begin at S.H. 19 and extend past the lake Sulphur Springs dam. The existing water main

generates more repairs than any other water main in the City.

We will also continue the Rockdale Road Reconstruction project in the next couple of months. You may recall that in the past five years we have replaced two out of four segments of Rockdale Road (on the north side of the interstate). This project will reconstruct another 1,000 feet of Rockdale Road and will include a new water line. One more project will remain to complete Rockdale Road. This project has a budget of 278,800.

The Broadway sewer upgrade project will also begin this quarter. This project will deepen the Broadway sewer line. Chili's, Domino's and Taco Bell will then utilize the new sewer main instead of the Duckworth sewer main which is at capacity. We plan to contract for the construction of this line rather than perform it in-house. The preferred method of construction for this project is by boring rather than open trench, and we don't have the capability to do that ourselves. This will minimize the disturbance to local businesses as well as the driving public.

This project will also make development more possible on the vacant parcel between Chili's, Panda Express and Duckworth. At least half of this parcel could be served by the new Broadway Sewer because of the greater depth. For any proposed development on this portion of the parcel, that is what we will require. The developer will have to construct a sewer main from the parcel to Broadway. The Broadway Sewer Upgrade project has a budget of \$111,800.

CLAIMS – We had two minor workers' compensation claims in December. One was for minor bruises and abrasions resulting from a police traffic stop/dragging incident. The other was for an over-extended elbow resulting in 6 days lost time, but not requiring surgery.

Two liability claims were filed against the City in December, one for a sewer overflow, and one for scratches and dents to a vehicle that were allegedly caused by visitors to the KCS Christmas Train event. Apparently the event did not have porta-potties for the attendees, and they were upset at the business owner who did not let them use his bathroom.

CITY BUSINESS OFFICE – Demolition is in full swing at the old city hall, and asbestos removal is underway. The staff has moved into the temporary buildings behind old city hall.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - Total suspended solids (TSS) came in at 3.31 mg/L for December which is well within our permitted limit of 15 mg/L.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES – Finance Director, Peter Karstens will present the year-to-date summary of revenues and expenditures.

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Treated 124 million gallons of water.
- Sold 1,204 gallons of AvGas and 4,387 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Conducted 16 building inspections, 9 electrical inspections, 12 plumbing inspections, and issued 15 building permits.
- Patched 82 potholes, made 18 street repairs following utility repairs and repaired one soft spot in a street.
- Swept 71 streets.
- Winterized the interactive fountain on Celebration Plaza.
- Installed 4 new stop signs and two new street signs.
- Decorated downtown for the holidays.
- Responded to 29 accidents, recorded 53 incidents, made 84 arrests and wrote 775 traffic citations.
- Responded to 141 fire/rescue calls including 5 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 77 fire hydrants.
- Removed all stumps at Buford Park.
- Hosted a softball tournament.
- Winterized all bathrooms in parks.
- Flushed 35 dead-end water mains.
- Repaired 8 water main ruptures and replaced 20 water meters.
- Unstopped 24 sewer mains and repaired 10 sewer mains 3 of which were the result of sewer camera inspections.
- Washed 70,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Checked out 2,167 items from the library.
- Weeded out 2,300 items from the Library collection.
- Achieved a 78% adoption rate at the animal shelter.
- Made 4 felony arrests in the Special Crimes Unit.
- Processed 775 tickets through municipal court.
- Performed preventative maintenance on several items at the wastewater treatment plant.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of December 2, 2014 and the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals meeting minutes of December 16, 2014. It was noted by City Secretary Roberts the typographical error had been corrected. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY BRIGHT STAR BASEBALL AND DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED BRIGHT STAR LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD

City Manager Maxwell gave a brief introduction of guest speaker Veronica Yost and told about the successful baseball season the special needs children had experienced this past year at Buford Park. Mrs. Yost explained that she and her husband, Mike, had been diligently working to create a special needs baseball field. The process first involves obtaining a 501(c)3 designation. The estimated cost is approximately \$500,000 as the field would be made of concrete and covered with a rubberized synthetic safety material. This amount also includes lighting, restrooms, signage, flagpoles, flags, video board with audio and computer, dug outs with metal roofs, team benches, shade structure, spectator bleachers, fencing and an asphalt parking lot. They would like to name the field Celebration Field – Home of Bright Star Baseball. This would provide the ability for special needs children from ages 5 – 18 to experience the game of baseball.

Zander Brown, a previous resident of Sulphur Springs, is an esteemed athlete that participated in the International Power Showcase Homerun Derby last week has partnered with Bright Star Baseball League to help raise funds for their field. He addressed the City Council speaking in favor of the project. Mr. Brown came in third of the one-hundred-seventy athletes that participated and he brought a few items from his experience last week to present to special needs children Tyler Yost, Matthew Roberts and Mark Roberts.

Don Sapaugh, representing Lions Club, addressed the City Council expressing that he felt a trust had been broken as initially the Lions Club had provided the bulk of the volunteers. Lions Club believed the partnership was going fine until they had read in the newspaper about the new board for the Bright Star Baseball League and the 501(c)3. He feels that Lions Club is faced with a difficult decision.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1077 RENAMING THE PORTION OF BROADWAY THAT IS WITHIN THE 1-30 RIGHT-OF-WAY (THE BRIDGE) AS CELEBRATION DISTRICT AND ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL LOGO

City Manager Maxwell presented the staff report. The city staff has been working on developing a way finding sign system to guide motorists from Interstate 30 to downtown. The first elements of the way finding system are billboards for eastbound and westbound traffic that will direct motorists to exit at 124 (Broadway). By renaming the bridge we can place a sign on the turn signal pole at either side of the bridge. There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the resolution as presented and adopt the official logo. Councilman Aguilar seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATIVE PURCHASING BETWEEN THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS AND THE REGION VIII EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER (TIPS)

City Manager Maxwell presented the staff report. The city is a member of two cooperative purchasing services, Texas Buy Board and the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments. This would be a third cooperative purchasing organization providing additional options not provided by the other two. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilwoman Price moved to approve the agreement. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

None.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.