

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Freddie Taylor called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:01 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

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

Absent: None

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources
Jay Sanders, Sulphur Springs Police Chief

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

Councilman Aguilar reminded everyone about the rodeo would not occur in March but rather the weekend of May 22nd and again in November.

City Attorney Jim McLeroy expressed his appreciation of the supporters of the 26th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation dinner and stated there were approximately 320 – 350 people in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem Price told about the upcoming presentation for the children on March 13th by the Sulphur Springs Symphony League at the Hopkins County Civic Center.

Mayor Taylor read the proclamation declaring February as Black History Month in the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 89th annual celebration of Black History since Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian instituted Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the Black 19th century abolitionist Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, the first official Black History Month was announced in 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford, who urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;” and

WHEREAS, Black History Month affords the special opportunity to become more knowledgeable about Black heritage, and to honor the many Black leaders who have contributed to the progress of our nation; and

WHEREAS, such knowledge can strengthen the insight of all our citizens regarding the issues of human rights, the great strides that have been made in the crusade to eliminate the barriers of equality for minority groups, and the continued struggle against racial discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE I, FREDDIE TAYLOR, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, and on behalf of the City Council of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of February as

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

and urge all residents to join together in making this a period of rededication to the principles of justice and equality for all people.

Signed and sealed this 3rd day of February 2015.

Freddie Taylor, Mayor

MANAGER’S REPORT

STREETS, WATER AND SEWER - The Lamar Street reconstruction project is progressing smoothly. New water and sewer mains have been installed from MLK to Beckham. Curb and gutter sections needing replacement in this same segment have also been replaced. Crews are now replacing water and sewer mains from MLK southward toward College. This ½ mile project will replace water main, sewer main and street at a cost of \$766,700.

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 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. Staff is currently evaluating the possibility of going ahead and completing this final section as well. 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 – The city had one worker's compensation claim in January for an employee who injured his knee on the job. He was off duty for 12 days.

We also had 2 liability claims in January, one for a minor vehicle accident and one for a sewer overflow.

CITY BUSINESS OFFICE – Demolition is nearly complete at the old city hall. Asbestos removal is also complete. The construction process will begin soon.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - Total suspended solids (TSS) came in at 6.95 mg/L for January which is well within our permitted limit of 15 mg/L.

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Pulled new service wiring for old city hall project.
- Installed new batteries on "No Thru Truck" signs.

- Moved metal building from TJ Alley to Coleman Park maintenance yard.
- Performed preventative maintenance on multiple wastewater treatment mechanisms.
- Installed new alum bulk tanks at the water treatment plant.
- Repaired 13 water main ruptures.
- Replaced 22 water meters.
- Unstopped 45 sewer mains.
- Washed 80,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Repaired 12 sewer mains.
- Responded to 134 fire/rescue calls including 7 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 75 fire hydrants.
- Sold 1,826 gallons of AvGas and 7,183 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Patched 75 potholes and made 12 extensive street repairs following utility repairs.
- Swept 59 streets.
- Conducted 36 food/health inspections.
- Conducted 18 building inspections, 4 electrical inspections, 9 plumbing inspections and issued 15 building permits.
- Treated 130 million gallons of water.
- Processed 720 tickets through municipal court.
- Checked out 2,384 materials from the Library.
- Attended intermediate Spanish training.
- Made 4 felony arrests in the special crimes unit.
- Responded to 238 animal control calls and achieved an adoption rate of 72%.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of January 6, 2015, the City Council workshop meeting minutes of January 14, 2015, the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals meeting minutes of January 27, 2015, and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of November 24, 2014. 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.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS 2014

Kirk Evans of Evans, Pingleton & Howard, PLLC, presented the 2014 audit to the City Council. The City of Sulphur Springs continues to be in excellent financial condition. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to accept the audit as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2661
AMENDING THE SULPHUR SPRINGS ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2050
REGARDING OFF PREMISE SIGNAGE**

Councilman Johnson excused himself from the room and abstained from voting.

City Attorney McLeroy presented the staff report. This ordinance attempts to balance the commercial interests of businesses needing to convey their marketing message by signage and the need for an attractive, uncluttered urban landscape.

Councilman Walker moved to approve the ordinance with the change that off premise signs could be placed 2000 feet apart instead of 2500 feet. Councilman Aguilar seconded.

There was a lengthy discussion with Tim Kelty speaking against the ordinance as presented. Mr. Kelty distributed a list of types of billboards that are currently used and added the size constraint of the new ordinance is argumentative. After the discussion concluded Mayor Taylor called for a vote on the motion and all voting aye.

The motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
WITH FRANKLIN AND DELTA COUNTIES**

Police Chief Sanders presented the staff report. This agreement is for narcotic enforcement and forfeiture dispersal between the Special Crimes Unit, Delta County Sheriff's Office, Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the 8th Judicial District Attorney. 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.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON REPORT REGARDING TRAFFIC STOPS AND
ARRESTS**

Police Chief Sanders presented the staff report. In accordance with Article 2.132(b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures Law Enforcement Policy agencies must submit information collected to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). The Sulphur Springs Police Department vehicles are equipped with video and audio equipment with videos being maintained for 90 days. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the report as presented. Councilman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 312 OF THE TEXAS TAX CODE AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2662 ESTABLISHING A REINVESTMENT ZONE FOR CLAYTON HOMES

Roger Feagley, Executive Director of the Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation, presented the staff report. CMH Manufacturing is in the process of expanding its operation in Sulphur Springs. The current expansion is 3.2 million dollars. One of the incentives offered to them is a tax abatement. This ordinance establishes the geographical boundaries of an area creating a reinvestment zone where a taxing entity can offer a tax incentive. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the ordinance on first reading. Councilman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 312 OF THE TEXAS TAX CODE AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 266 ESTABLISHING A REINVESTMENT ZONE FOR OCEAN SPRAY HOMES

Roger Feagley, Executive Director of the Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation, presented the staff report. Ocean Spray is in the process of expanding its operation in Sulphur Springs. The current expansion is 2.2 million dollars. One of the incentives offered to them is a tax abatement. This ordinance establishes the geographical boundaries of an area creating a reinvestment zone where a taxing entity can offer a tax incentive. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the ordinance on first reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1078 CALLING FOR ELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL PLACES 1, 2, AND 3, NAMING ELECTION JUDGES AND SETTING DATES FOR EARLY VOTING.

(La discusión/acción en la Resolución el número 1078(S) pidiendo la elección coloca 1, 2 y 3, llamando a jueces de elección, y poniendo fechas para la votación temprana.)

City Secretary Roberts presented the staff report. This resolution calls for a City Council election for Places 1, 2, and 3 to be held Saturday, May 9, 2015. The resolution also sets the dates for making application for place on ballot, for early voting and for mail ballot deadlines as well as naming the Early Voting Election Clerk and the Election Judges. This resolution was presented in English and Spanish. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the resolution(s) as presented. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

W. A. Cook Jr. asked the City Council to direct staff to look into the property located across the street from him which he believes has no water or sewer and is in disrepair.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.