

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL**

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

**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  
Robert Lee, Director of Utilities  
Russell Ham, Water Plant Superintendent  
Roger Feagley, Executive Director, EDC  
Glenda Bassham, Customer Retention Specialist, EDC

**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.

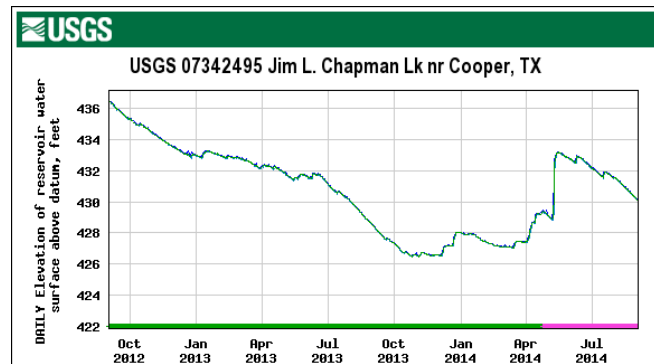
**PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

There were none at the City Council meeting of September 2, 2014.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

**WATER** - The dredging operation at Cooper Lake is still only 27% complete. The North Texas Municipal Water District issued a notice of termination to the contractor on August 20th.

Cooper Lake is 10 feet low, which is about 2 feet higher than it was this time last year.



**STREETS** – Rogers Street is 75% completed. It will be finished in about 10 days. This project was funded by a grant from the USDA.

For the month of September the Streets Division and Capital Construction Division patched 548 potholes and made 32 major street repairs following utility repairs. That catches us up on potholes and utility repairs. I ask for the public's help regarding potholes. If you have potholes on your street let us know by calling (903) 885-7541.

**CLAIMS** – We had 3 workers' compensation claims in August. Two animal control officers were bitten by the same dog. A Water Department employee was thrown from a riding lawnmower and suffered minor injuries.

We had one liability claim for a broken window caused by a tear gas canister. That claim has been denied.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT** - Total suspended solids (TSS) came in at 2.38 mg/L for August which is well within our permitted limit of 12 mg/L. The new filters are working as expected. I expect to continue to produce good numbers, at least as far as TSS goes.

In other respects the plant is still struggling. Dissolved oxygen levels continue to be very low.

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

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Checked out 3,209 items from the library.
- Sold 1,930 gallons of AvGas and 7,450 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Responded to 133 fire/rescue calls including 1 structure fire.
- Conducted 4 health inspections and investigated 51 code complaints.
- Conducted 25 building inspections, 6 electrical inspections, 12 plumbing inspections, 3 mechanical inspections and issued 26 building permits.

- Received police training in the areas of Intoxlyzer certification, assisting crime victims, narcotics and telecommunications.
- Welcomed new Police Chief Jay Sanders and Captain Jason Ricketson.
- Responded to 245 animal control calls while achieving an adoption rate of 71%.
- Made 5 arrests in the special crimes unit.
- Responded to 25 accidents, made 82 arrests, wrote 852 traffic citations and recorded 78 offenses.
- Fertilized and aerated athletic fields.
- Mowed the Coleman Lake dam.
- Removed dead trees around soccer field.
- Repaired 5 soft spots at various street locations.
- Removed 4 fallen trees from city streets.
- Made 6 sewer repairs following sewer camera inspections and repaired 9 other sewer mains.
- Repaired 16 water mains.
- Replaced 28 water meters.
- Unstopped 6 sewer mains.
- Cleaned 79,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Processed 831 tickets through municipal courts.
- Flushed 36 dead-end water mains.

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of August 5, 2014; the Special City Council meeting minutes of August 5, 12, 21, and 26, 2014; the Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of August 19, 2014; the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of August 19, 2014; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of July 28, 2014. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2652, THE APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FISCAL YEAR 2014 - 2015**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. He also distributed answers to previous questions raised by the City Council. There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the ordinance with the modifications that we increase the amount given to Melhaven Cemetery and the City Cemetery by \$100 each, add \$66,000 to support the branding effort and include a \$125 administrative fee for mowing liens. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2653, SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. The property tax rate is set at 0.44¢ per \$100 of valuation. The taxes in the ordinance are actually assessed on property as of January 1, 2014, though they are due after the tax rate is set. There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.44 per \$100 which is effectively a 1.01% increase in the tax rate. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2654, SETTING THE WATER RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Water rates, as noted in the budget workshops, will increase by 2.0% from last year. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Aguilar moved to approve the ordinance as presented on first reading. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2655, SETTING THE SEWER RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Sewer rates, as noted in the budget workshops, will increase. This increase will be used to fund part of the engineering on improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There was a general discussion. Councilman Johnson requested a meeting with the major industrial users and Roger Feagley. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Aguilar moved to approve the ordinance as presented on first reading. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2656, SETTING THE SANITATION RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Sanitation rates, as noted in the budget workshops, will increase by 2.0%.

Councilman Sellers asked about last year's increase. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the ordinance as presented on first reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2657, AUTHORIZATION OF UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Updated Service Credits enhance each retirement account of current employees for inflationary factors above specific thresholds. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the ordinance as presented on first reading. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON ASSET FORFEITURE BUDGET**

Chief Sanders presented the Police Department Asset Forfeiture Budget to the City Council. Asset Forfeiture money is acquired from cash and liquidation of forfeited property from narcotic related activities. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the budget as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BUDGET**

Roger Feagley, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation, presented the staff report to the City Council. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the Economic Development Corporation budget as presented. Councilman Aguilar seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL CHLORINE DIOXIDE**

Director of Utilities Robert Lee presented the staff report. The staff advertised for bids and received two for the bid opening August 19, 2014. The low bidder was Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC, with a bid of \$6,776.00 dry ton. The higher bid was received from International Dioxide Inc. in the amount of \$22,000.00 per dry ton. Mr. Lee expressed that shipped plays a large role in figuring the bids. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Price moved to accept the bids received and award

the contract to Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON CONTRACT WITH NORTH HOPKINS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION**

Director of Utilities Robert Lee presented the staff report. The City of Sulphur Springs and North Hopkins Water Supply Corporation entered into a new contract December 5, 2006. The contract was for a forty-year term. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) inspected them recently and suggested changing the maximum rate of 1500 gallons of treated water per minute to 2000 gallons of treated water per minute in order to stay within the guidelines of TCEQ regulations. Since we deliver water to them through four separate meters in four different locations it is no problem to provide the requested 2000 gallons of treated water per minute. This contract is also for forty years. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Price moved to approve the contract with North Hopkins Water Supply Corporation. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1069 SUPPORTING THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUEST TO RESTRIPE THE INTERSECTIONS OF HIGHWAY 19 AT IH-30**

Texas Department of Transportation Area Engineer Tammy Simms presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. This proposal would remove the signal lights and restripe the bridge of Highway 19 going across IH-30 creating four lanes of traffic and redirecting traffic flow at the intersections of Highway 19 at IH-30. There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Price moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1070 DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE COMBINATION TAX AND REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. This is the beginning process to issue Certificates of Obligation for the fiscal year 2015 budget. There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1071 APPROVING THE TAX ABATEMENT POLICY**

Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Roger Feagley presented the staff report. State law requires that communities that wish to participate in tax abatement must have a policy in place. Tax abatement policies expire every two years and approval of this resolution will reinstate the policy adopted two years ago without any changes. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**ADJOURN**

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.