

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

OCTOBER 7, 2014

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
Peter Karstens – Finance Director
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources
Roger Feagley, Executive Director, 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

Councilman Sellers announced there would be a 125th Anniversary Celebration for City National Bank from 2P – 4P on October 19th on Connally Street. It will be a wonderful time for family and friends to come downtown to celebrate with City national Bank. There will be special activities for the children and everyone is invited. He also noted that Connally Street would be closed off during this time period for safety purposes.

City Manager Maxwell reminded everyone that State Representative Dan Flynn will be at Coffee off the Square next Tuesday morning, October 14, at 8AM.

Mayor Pro Tem Price announced the Hopkins County Stew Festival on October 25 at Buford Park and she also reminded everyone about the Symphony League Action on Saturday, November 22, 2014.

Councilman Aguilar announced the UPRA Rodeo which will be conducted November 21 – 23 at the rodeo grounds of the Hopkins County Civic Center. He also invited folks to attend the “Handicapable Rodeo” which will be conducted at 9AM on November 21. He stated this is often the only time some people get to participate in horseback riding. There will also be hayrides and wagon rides.

City Secretary Roberts reminded everyone that our next City Council meeting will be conducted November 4th which is Election Day. It is likely that our meeting will start later than usual and asked everyone to vote.

MANAGER’S REPORT

STREETS – Mulberry Street and Rogers Street are completed. The Mulberry/Rogers project was funded by a grant from the USDA. Next up will be Lamar Street reconstruction and FM 2285 water line.

Expect the annual overlay program to begin soon, with overlays on Morris Drive, Russell Drive, Kendall Lane, Fuller Street, North Davis Street (from the Blacklands Railroad to Park Street), and Hinnant Street. Expect League Street, Live Oak Street, Vonda Drive, and Waco Street to be overlaid in the spring. We will be replacing curb and gutter on Live Oak Street this winter in preparation for overlay. Regarding North Davis Street, we are stopping at Park Street even though the segment from Park to Glover is in very bad shape. This is because we have a water main replacement project slated for that segment, and we don’t want to dig up a new street to install the water line. We will finish North Davis Street after the waterline project.

CLAIMS – We had two minor workers’ compensation claims in September. Neither claim resulted in lost time.

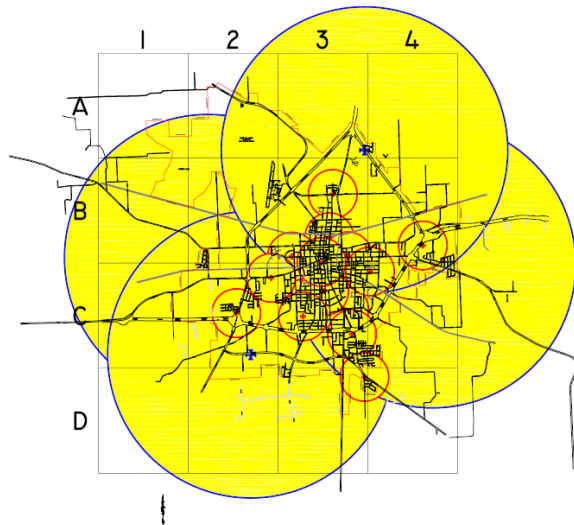
We also had one liability claim for a slip and fall incident.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - Total suspended solids (TSS) came in at 1.72 mg/L for September 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 not present the year-to-date summary of revenues and expenditures, but he will do a complete year-end wrap-up next month.

TORNADO WARNING SIRENS - We just installed 3 new warning sirens. They are at College Street near the Lake Highlands Baptist Church, Loop 301 near Jennifer Lane, and at Lovers Lane near the Stone Briar addition. They should be fully operational by Friday. This will give us full coverage throughout the city and double coverage in many places. Attached is a coverage map. You may have noticed that some of the sirens activated during last week’s storm. This was not intentional. We had not spotted a tornado. The activation was likely the result of a power surge.



Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Sold 2,150 gallons of AvGas and 4,820 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Patched 63 potholes and made 22 other street repairs following utility repairs.
- Removed trees from various streets following recent storms.
- Over seeded the plaza with rye grass and fertilized the flowerbeds.
- Replaced 150 feet of sidewalk and curb and gutter on Hunter Street.
- Repaired Hwy 11 lift station.
- Performed significant preventative maintenance at wastewater treatment plant.
- Completed field training for new police officer Zach Brown.
- Attended police training in the areas of internet crimes against children and firearms.
- Responded to 222 animal control calls and achieved a 50% adoption rate at the shelter.
- Made 9 felony arrests in the Special Crimes Unit.
- Repaired 17 water main ruptures and replaced 31 water mains.
- Unstopped 8 sewer mains and repaired 18 sewer mains including 5 repairs that resulted from camera inspections.
- Washed 71,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Conducted 3 health inspections and investigated 11 code enforcement complaints.

- Conducted 28 building inspections, 11 electrical inspections, 5 plumbing inspections, 5 mechanical inspections and issued 16 building permits.
- Sprayed for army worms at Coleman Park.
- Responded to 34 accidents, made 80 arrests, recorded 51 offences and wrote 796 traffic citations.
- Responded to 151 fire/rescue calls including 1 structure fire.
- Processed 830 tickets through municipal court.
- Flushed 36 dead end water mains.
- Repaired #1 high service pump at water treatment plant.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of September 25, 2014; the Special City Council meeting minutes of September 23, 2014; the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of September 16, 2014; the Construction Board of Appeals meeting minutes of September 18, 2014; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of August 25, 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.

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

This presentation was cancelled by the presenters.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2660 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS, COMBINATION TAX AND LIMITED SURPLUS REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2014

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. He stated this is the beginning of the process to issue Certificates of Obligation per the FY 2015 budget. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Councilman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

At this time the Mayor chose to move item #07 after item #12.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2658 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2651

CREATING AN ENTERPRISE PROJECT ZONE FOR SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA LLC

Sulphur Springs Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Roger Feagley presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. There was no one to speak to the public hearing or the second reading of the ordinance. City Secretary Roberts addressed the City Council stating the changes, one of which was made after the packets were distributed. Councilman Johnson moved to adopt the ordinance as amended on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR A SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2659 DESIGNATING A CERTAIN AREA AS AN INDUSTRIAL REINVESTMENT ZONE FOR SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA LLC

Sulphur Springs Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Roger Feagley presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. There was no one to speak to the public hearing or the second reading of the ordinance. Councilman Sellers moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1072 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA LLC FOR A TAX ABATEMENT

Sulphur Springs Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Roger Feagley presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. He also noted the tax abatement is for one year only which is a little unusual. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Aguilar 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. 1073 ADOPTING A 380 AGREEMENT POLICY

City Attorney McLeroy presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. This item has very little impact on the city but has a great impact on Saputo. City Manager Maxwell interjected that a review meeting was held earlier in the day to author the agreement. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Walker moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1074 ENTERING INTO A PERFORMANCE (380) AGREEMENT WITH SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA LLC

City Manager Maxwell had previously stated the review had occurred and the recommendation was to approve the agreement. Sulphur Springs Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Roger Feagley was available to answer any questions. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2650 AMENDING THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS ZONING ORDINANCE BY REPLACING IN ITS ENTIRETY SECTION 4.101 ENTITLED SIGNS AND IDENTIFICATION REGULATIONS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

City Attorney Jim McLeroy presented the staff report. There was a general discussion. Tim Kely addressed the City Council about new billboards. Mayor Pro Tem Price thanked City Attorney McLeroy for all his hard work and noted there were some inconsistencies in the document. Councilman Johnson suggested two ordinances, one for on-premises and one for off-premises. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to table this item again and conduct a workshop. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION ONLY ON CREATING A DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS

City Manager Maxwell presented the staff report and listed the top ten changes which were sidewalks, no dead end streets, add tools used by the state on items such as plat amendments, combine SF6 and SF10, redo Central Commercial District, allow for a vegetative barrier option instead of masonry wall, lessen Bed and Breakfast restriction, delete Specific Use, require smaller blocks for new development, and allow staff to determine if items require a Special use Permit. This item was requested to be placed on the agenda by Councilman Johnson. There was a lengthy general discussion. City Manager Maxwell suggested taking each issue, one at a time, on future agendas.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

None.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.