

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**DECEMBER 5, 2006**

**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 Yolanda Williams  
Councilman Garry Jordan  
Councilman Clay Walker  
Councilman Oscar Aguilar  
Councilman Larry Powers  
Councilman Chris Brown

Absent: None

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager  
Gale Roberts, City Secretary  
James Litzler, City Attorney  
Peter Karstens, Finance Director  
Craig Vaughn, Director of Utilities  
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources

**PLEDGE AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Taylor led in the pledge to the flag and Councilman Jordan led the invocation.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT** – A bit of bad news. The Texas Transportation Commission informed us last week that they are rescinding the grant call for enhancement projects. You might recall that last year the City submitted a \$1 million grant request to fund improvements to downtown projects, T-Bone Alley, and parking improvements at Davis & Main. TxDOT's decision is the result of a nationwide rescission of enhancement project funds by the Federal Highway administration. This is not the first time the FHWA has rescinded enhancement funds.

**WHITWORTH STREET RECONSTRUCTION** – This project will reconstruct the unimproved portion of Whitworth Street from Elm to Como with reinforced concrete. The project recently began with the reconstruction of an 8-inch water main. When the water main is completed, the Capital Construction Division will begin reconstructing the road. The project has a budget of \$181,035.

**WOODBIDGE CROSSING** – This year's improvements in the Woodbridge Addition are about 75% completed. The Capital Construction Division will reconstruct 800 linear feet of concrete street, this time with steel reinforcement! The project has a budget of \$80,000. It looks like we're coming in under budget, so we may actually go a little beyond 800 linear feet.

**TOMLINSON DRAINAGE** – This project is about 90% complete. The service station and gas tanks were removed, and a new drainage channel has begun to emerge. The new channel will eventually divert storm water into a retention basin behind City Hall. The project has a budget of \$71,359, and it looks like we'll come in under budget.

**ROCKDALE ROAD** – Engineering has begun on the Rockdale Road project. This project will reconstruct 1,000 linear feet of the old road with reinforced concrete. The road is 4,000 feet long, and this year's project will begin at Camp Street and progress southward to the first curve. The project also includes water and sewer, and has a total budget of \$221,488.

**DEMOLITION** – Two substandard structures were demolished this month, one on West Ross Street, and the other on Sunset Street. This brings the total of abated structures to 354.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** - Finance Director, Peter Karstens, will present a summary of FY 2006 revenues and expenditures.

**CLAIMS AND ACCIDENTS** – Two City employees submitted worker's compensation claims in November, one for poison ivy exposure and the other for a strained back. Neither resulted in lost time.

A driver submitted a claim for damages allegedly resulting from a canine search. Apparently the dog alerted on the vehicle and scratched the door, hood and rear hatch. The claim for \$1,249 has been submitted to TML for evaluation.

**MISCELLANEOUS** – Elsewhere around the City, employees:

- Treated 130 million gallons of drinking water.
- Checked out 2,667 books to City residents and 1,398 to non residents.

- Added 1,451 new books to the library collection.
- Assisted Heritage Historical Park, Downtown Merchants and the East Texas Choral Society with the promotion of their combined Christmas Event.
- Processed 540 tickets through Municipal Court.
- Made repairs at Kids Kingdom.
- Placed mulch at Kids Kingdom and Pacific Park.
- Winterized parks bathrooms.
- Applied pre-emergent on athletic fields.
- Repaired doors at Senior Citizens Center.
- Responded to 88 fire-rescue calls including 3 structure fires and 5 vehicle fires.
- Conducted 41 fire inspections.
- Replaced 4 street signs.
- Attended training regarding sex offender registration.
- Attended crisis intervention training, and orientation for volunteers on patrol (VOP).
- Attended SWAT training.
- Seized 50 pounds of marijuana and \$9,220 in U.S. currency.
- Made 9 felony arrests in the Special Crimes Unit while seizing hydrocodone, valium, and marijuana.
- Wrote 503 citations, made 96 arrests, recorded 71 offenses, and worked 33 accidents.
- Answered 616 emergency 911 calls and dispatched officers to 970 calls.
- Became officially recognized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as being “Storm Ready”.
- Answered 169 animal control calls, picked up 20 dogs and cats and received 4 at shelter.
- Found homes for 5 dogs and cats, and released 4 to their owners. Adoption rate 21%.
- Conducted 20 health inspections, and 8 public nuisance inspections.
- Made 7 street repairs.
- Conducted 25 building inspections, 27 electrical inspections, 41 plumbing inspections, 18 mechanical inspections, and issued 14 building permits.
- Worked on Christmas lights on the square.
- Repaired runway lights.
- Repaired 10 sewer mains.
- Installed an 18 feet-deep manhole at Holiday Inn Express.
- Responded to 111 sewer calls, and unstopped 73 sewer mains.
- Conducted annual water meter tests on industrial meters.
- Cleaned 39,600 feet of sewer main.
- Repaired 9 fire hydrants.

- Installed 320 feet of 8” water main in front of the new Holiday Inn Express.
- Set 9 new water meters.
- Repaired 31 water main ruptures.
- Performed maintenance on wastewater sludge pumps, clarifiers and sludge press.
- Produced treated effluent with an average total suspended solids (TSS) count of 2.72 mg/L, well within regulatory requirements (15 mg/L).
- Repaired radio transmitter on Carter Street water tower.
- Performed preventative maintenance on filters at Water Treatment Plant.
- Sent out bid specs to repaint Coleman Park water tower (New Logo).
- Flushed 37 dead end water mains.
- Repaired voids in Lake Sulphur Springs dam.
- Went deer hunting (not on City time).

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items on the Consent Agenda were reviewed: Consider for approval: regular City Council minutes of November 7, 2006 and the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of November 21, 2006. Councilman Brown moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Williams seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE BRINKER WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION CONTRACT RENEWAL**

This proposed contract will be for a term of twenty years, which is the time frame suggested if the contract is not needed to secure a loan from the United States Government. City of Sulphur Springs staff is striving to have a standard contract for all its Rural Water Supply Corporations and this contract utilizes that format. Craig Vaughn, Director of Utilities, was available to answer any questions and present the staff report. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Brown moved to approve the contract as presented. Councilman Jordan seconded and the vote was unanimous.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE NORTH HOPKINS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION CONTRACT RENEWAL**

This proposed contract will be for a term of forty (40) years because it is being used to secure a loan from the United States Government. The City of Sulphur Springs staff is striving to have a standard contract for all its Rural Water Supply Corporations and this contract utilizes that format. Craig Vaughn, Director of Utilities, was available to answer questions and present the staff report. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Jordan moved to approve the contract as presented. Councilman Brown seconded and the vote was unanimous.

