

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 7, 2014**

**7:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: None.

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager  
Gale Roberts, City Secretary  
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney  
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director  
Gordon Frazier, Human Resources Director  
Russell Ham, Water Plant Superintendent

**PLEDGE AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Sellers led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor led in the invocation.

**PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

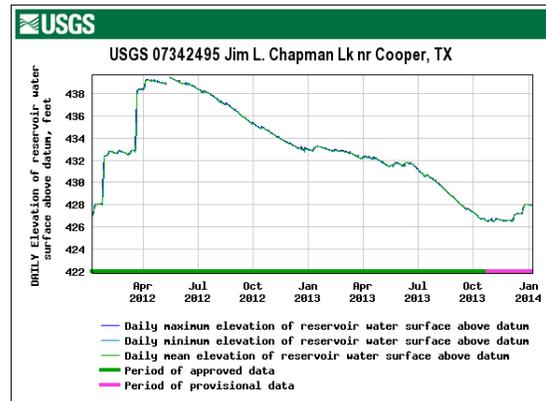
City Manager Maxwell reminded everyone there would be a watch party downtown Tuesday, January 14, to watch American Restoration at 9:00 p.m. on the big screen. They will focus on the popcorn machine purchased by Sweet & Salty and the City of Sulphur Springs which will be used for downtown events.

City Attorney Jim McLeroy stated the Chamber of Commerce Law Enforcement recognition dinner had been moved to January to avoid year-end conflicts. This year's event will be held January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center beginning at 5PM.

Mayor Sellers said a tentative date of January 24<sup>th</sup> has been set for the dedication of the freestanding Library which will be located at the downtown plaza. The freestanding Library will be dedicated in honor of the Mayor's mother, Billiefae Sellers, who passed away in 2013.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

**COOPER LAKE** – Last month I reported that the water level in Cooper Lake had stopped declining. The reason for this was that the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has stopped pumping water from the Lake.



This month I am happy to report that we caught a little rain in December, and the lake level actually rose by a foot and a half. The rains added over 2,000 acre feet of water to our water storage account at the lake.

We have 33,770 acre feet of storage rights in the lake, and the right to pump just over half, or 18,128 acre feet in any given year unless our storage account runs dry. At the end of 2013 we had a storage account balance of 25,253 acre feet and a diversion account balance of 13,310 acre feet. The diversion account balance will reset this month, and we should end up with more than 17,000 acre feet in our diversion account. We use about 5,000 acre feet per year.

Lake Sulphur Springs is full. It holds 15,128 acre feet of water, and should yield just over half that at 8,700 acre feet in most years.

**NEW CITY HALL** – The electricity should be on by the end of the week. Heat should be on sometime the next week. Concrete work continues on the site. We are still looking good for a February move-in. The phones are scheduled to switch over the week of February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**BRANDING** - I expect to get the final report from Roger Brooks later this month.

**CLAIMS** - We had one minor workers' compensation claim in December for a sprained ankle. We did not have any liability claims in December.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT** - The plant treated effluent to a daily average total suspended solids (TSS) reading of 9.09 mg/L in December. The December results are within our permit parameter of 15 mg/L.

Normally I would say that the plant is capable of better results, but the truth is that B.E.F (Owens) has come online with their expansion. They are discharging large volumes of highly concentrated effluent. We expect the characteristics of their effluent stream to improve as they work out the wrinkles in their pre-treatment plant operation; however, I expect additional volume and solids loading from now on.

There are three major treatment processes and several minor processes at the wastewater treatment plant. The three major processes are: 1) clarification, 2) aeration and 3) filtration. In the next 90 days we are going to update one of our three filters at a cost of \$700,000. This will result in a dramatic improvement in the filtration process at the wastewater treatment plant. The newly refurbished filter will be so much better that we will be able to run the entire flow of the wastewater treatment plant through the new filter and abandon the other two.

We would be wise to consider modifications to the other major processes, clarification and aeration. There have been significant advancements in aeration technology since the wastewater treatment plant was last overhauled 30 years ago. We also need to enlarge our existing clarifiers and/or add additional clarifiers. A clarifier is just a large settling basin.

It will likely cost \$5 million to \$6 million to retrofit the aeration basins with new equipment and build additional clarification. Interest rates are at historic lows, and they are likely to climb in the near future. We should act soon. Staff is preparing to bring the issue to you at a future meeting.

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

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

- Responded to 134 fire/rescue calls including 4 structure fires.
- Made 2 arrests resulting from arson investigations.
- Performed preventative maintenance and testing on 82 fire hydrants.
- Performed 59 fire inspections.
- Processed 368 tickets through municipal court.
- Made 14 felony arrests stemming from Special Crimes Unit investigations.
- Treated 127 million gallons of Cooper Lake water.
- Served 3,572 library patrons including 88 Saturday patrons.
- Checked out 2,264 library materials.
- Responded to 28 accidents, recorded 59 offences, made 88 arrests and wrote 261 traffic tickets.
- Received training in the areas of Intoxilyzer operation and street level narcotics.
- Took an active role in the Blue Santa toy drive.

- Responded to 232 animal control calls and achieved an adoption rate of 50%.
- Made a long-overdue facelift at Kids Kingdom.
- Conducted 6 building inspections, 4 electrical inspections, 4 plumbing inspections, 0 mechanical inspections and issued 15 building permits.
- Made 10 health inspections and 35 nuisance abatement inspections.
- Patched 62 potholes and made 19 major street repairs following utility repairs.
- Removed several fallen trees from city streets during the ice storm.
- Sold 1,250 gallons of AvGas and 4,600 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Repaired 15 ruptured water mains.
- Replaced 15 water meters.
- Unstopped 38 sewer mains.
- Made 14 sewer line repairs as a result of service calls, and another 11 sewer repairs resulting from camera inspections.
- Performed preventative maintenance on Cooper Lake pumps.
- Operated the water treatment plant by generator for 7 hours during the ice storm.
- Opened the Lake Sulphur Springs flood gates for 38.5 hours on Dec 21/22.

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

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of December 3, 2013; the Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of December 17, 2013; the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of December 17, 2013; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of November 25, 2013. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1060 SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED TRINITY OAKS APARTMENTS LOCATED AT 600 WOODLAWN STREET**

Phase one of the facility was built in 1981 and the second phase was built in 1990. The property is in need of a significant rehabilitation. Lakewood Property Management intends to apply to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for an allocation of housing tax credits and HOME funds in order to help pay for the acquisition and extensive rehabilitation while keeping the apartments affordable to its elderly residents. This resolution confirms the City of Sulphur Springs supports the application to the TDHCA by Lakewood Property Management. Dan Allgeier was present to answer any questions. There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro tem Taylor moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**ADJOURN**

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.