

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

FEBRUARY 4, 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
Councilwoman Kayla Price
Councilwoman Emily Glass

Absent: Councilman Oscar Aguilar

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Jim Bayuk, Chief of Police
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

Mayor Sellers thanked everyone for coming to the dedication of the little library on the square. We had great weather and there were approximately 50 or more people in attendance. He also wanted to publicly thank the city for their participation and Jerry Lee for a fantastic design. Within one (1) hour of the dedication someone had posted a picture on Facebook of a child using the little library. The Mayor also plans to get the little library registered with the historic site of the courthouse so when Sulphur Springs is pulled up on Google Maps it will indicate that we have a little library on the square.

Mayor Sellers also announced that on February 21, 1889 City National Bank conducted their first organizational meeting and this February 21, 2014 will be the 125th Anniversary and CNB still operates under the same charter.

Mayor Sellers read a proclamation acknowledging Black History Month.

WHEREAS, 2014 marks the 88th 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, JOHN A. SELLERS, 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 4th day of February 2014.

John A. Sellers, Mayor

Mayor Sellers reminded everyone of the upcoming Chamber of Commerce banquet which will be held February 13th at the Hopkins County Regional Civic Center.

MANAGER'S REPORT

NEW CITY HALL – The power is on in the building, and contractors are busily painting walls and installing cabinets and plumbing fixtures.

BRANDING - I expect to get the final report from Roger Brooks any day now.

CLAIMS - We had 3 workers compensation claims in January. Two of those claims resulted in lost time. Those claims were for a back injury and a knee injury.

We did not have any liability claims in January.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - The plant treated effluent to a daily average total suspended solids (TSS) reading of 6.06 mg/L in January. The January results are within our permit parameter of 15 mg/L.

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

MISCELLANEOUS – Elsewhere around the City, employees:

- Repaired 22 water main ruptures.
- Replaced 27 water meters.
- Unstopped 56 sewer mains.
- Repaired 18 sewer mains.
- Treated 133 million gallons of Cooper Lake water.
- Washed 75,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Checked out 2,366 materials from the library.
- Performed preventative maintenance on wastewater treatment plant filters and clarifiers.
- Responded to 125 fire/rescue calls including 2 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance and testing on 86 fire hydrants.
- Conducted 76 fire inspections.
- Removed dead trees from city parks.
- Made extensive repairs at Kids Kingdom.
- Painted interior of Gray's Building.
- Received training in hostage negotiation.
- Responded to 270 animal control calls and achieved a 60% adoption rate at the animal shelter.
- Responded to 27 accidents, made 75 arrests, wrote 795 traffic citations, and recorded 67 offences.
- Made 4 felony arrests in the special crimes unit.
- Patched 49 potholes and made street repairs following utility repairs.
- Removed Christmas décor and put up Valentines banners.

- Conducted 11 health inspections, 5 building inspections, 2 plumbing inspections and issued 22 building permits.
- Sold 1,209 gallons of AvGas and 5,052 gallons of jet fuel.
- Responded to an onsite EPA audit of our asbestos and lead-based paint abatement grant. We passed with flying colors!

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of January 7, 2014; the Planning and Zoning meeting minutes of January 21, 2014; and the Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of January 21, 2014. There was no one to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS 2013

Tom Pingleton of Evans, Pingleton & Howard, PLLC, presented the 2013 audit to the City Council. The City of Sulphur Springs continues to be in excellent financial condition. Mr. Pingleton recognized Finance Director Karstens, City Manager Maxwell, and city staff for an exemplary job. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to accept the audit as presented. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON REPORT REGARDING TRAFFIC STOPS AND ARRESTS

Police Chief Bayuk presented the staff report. In accordance with Article 2.134(b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures all law enforcement agencies must submit information collected under Article 2.133, Code of Criminal Procedure, to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the report as presented. Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1061 CALLING FOR ELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL PLACES 6 AND 7, NAMING ELECTION JUDGES, AND SETTING DATES FOR EARLY VOTING

LA DISCUSIÓN EN LA RESOLUCIÓN EL NUMERO 1016(S) PIDIENDO LA ELECCIÓN 6 Y 7, 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 6 and 7 to be held Saturday, May 10, 2014. 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. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the resolution(s) as presented. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PLANS AND DESIGN FOR OLD CITY HALL

Finance Director presented the staff report. The renovation would serve two purposes. The next 10 to 15 years it will act as the payment center for utility bills and taxes as well as house the Finance Department. Secondly, when the Finance Department moves to second building of the New City Hall, the entire building would become the Police Station. This design keeps that future transition in mind. If the City Council gives the approval to proceed, we will have Bart Robinett complete the plans and specifications. With a better estimate we will return with a budget amendment to secure the additional funding so we can start the project. There was a brief general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilwoman Price moved to approve the concept as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION NO. 1062

This resolution allows the city to expend certain funds on projects and then get reimbursed later by bonds (COs). The debt would have to be issued within 18 months of this resolution. The expenditures include \$350,000 for the renovation of the old city hall and \$250,000 for the acquisition of land for drainage improvements. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Walker moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

None.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.