

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

MARCH 4, 2014

7:30 p.m.

THIS IS ELECTION DAY AND POLLS DO NOT CLOSE UNTIL 7PM.

Mayor John Sellers called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:05 p.m. Councilwoman Kayla Price moved to adjourn to executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code 551.072, deliberations about real property. Mayor Pro Tem Freddie Taylor seconded the motion. There was no one present to speak to the issue. The vote was unanimous. 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
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources – 7P
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director – 7P
Russell Ham, Water Plant Superintendent – 7P

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Sellers reconvened the meeting into open session at 7:40 p.m.

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 read a proclamation acknowledging Texas History Month.

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the citizens of the great State of Texas make every effort to preserve, protect, and promote the diversified and cultural history of our state; and

WHEREAS, Sunday, March 2, 2014, the State of Texas will celebrate its 178th year since the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence creating the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in February 1845 the Republic of Texas approved a resolution to enter the Union and part of that resolution, which came to be known as the Constitution of 1845, stated that Texas would retain its right to divide into four states in addition to the original Texas. The Republic of Texas existed for nine years before joining the Union as the 28th state on December 29, 1845; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature purchased the land and buildings of the Alamo complex in the early part of the 20th century and designated the Alamo chapel as an official Texas State Shrine. Alamo Day is celebrated on March 6th of each year; and

WHEREAS, Texas is known as the Lone Star State and the flag displays a single five-point white star on a field of blue with an upper white horizontal stripe and a lower red horizontal stripe; and

WHEREAS, in 1826 the Texas Rangers, a unique group of lawmen used to track down outlaws, settle feuds, and reconcile land disputes, were established by Stephen F. Austin. In 1935, the Texas Rangers became a branch of the Texas Department of Public Safety and today the organization still works for law and order in the state; and

WHEREAS, Texas is the only state that was a Republic before joining the Union, the second largest state in land mass, and the second largest in population. It occupies about seven percent of the total land and water areas of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John A. Sellers, Mayor of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2014 as

“TEXAS HISTORY MONTH”

and urge all citizens to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

It is so proclaimed this the 4th day of March 2014.

Mayor Sellers stated the Miller Grove Boys Basketball team was going to state for the first time ever. Wednesday, March 5th, the County Judge will read a proclamation on the courthouse steps and the team will have a sheriff's escort to send them on their way. All are welcomed to the event.

MANAGER'S REPORT

NEW CITY HALL – The furniture is starting to arrive. Landscaping is in progress. There is a bit of painting and cleaning going on inside. The construction manager KBL will be working on a punch-list soon. The projected move-in date is March 18th.

STREETS - Work continues on Connally Street. Concrete is in place from Davis to Mulberry. The next section from Mulberry to Rogers will be asphalt. This will also conclude on or before March 18th.

Mulberry and Rogers will be reconstructed next, thanks to a grant from the USDA. Both streets will be reconstructed in concrete.

Work on Davis Street will resume after April 15th. The intersection of Davis/Connally will be reconstructed first. Then, once the intersection is open, the segment from Connally to Atkins will be done.

CLAIMS - There were no workers compensation claims in February and one minor liability claim for damage to a garage door.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - The plant treated effluent to a daily average total suspended solids (TSS) reading of 2.78 mg/L in February. Congratulations to Robert Lee and the hardworking staff at the wastewater treatment plant for getting the numbers back to where we like them.

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

MISCELLANEOUS – Elsewhere around the City, employees:

- Served 3,709 patrons at the library and checked out 2,179 materials.
- Sold 1,255 gallons of AvGas and 5,285 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Removed several dead trees in city parks.
- Removed 20 stumps in Coleman Park.
- Repaired concrete walkways at Coleman Park.
- Held 2 adult softball tournaments.
- Repaired 15 ruptured water mains.
- Replaced 29 water meters.
- Unstopped 37 sewer mains and repaired 4 mains.

- Responded to 117 fire/rescue calls including 1 structure fire.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 79 fire hydrants.
- Replaced 3 street signs.
- Conducted 15 health inspections.
- Conducted 16 building inspections, 14 electrical inspections, 16 plumbing inspections, 7 mechanical inspections and issued 14 building permits.
- Patched 138 potholes.
- Made 29 street repairs following utility repairs (Atmos, water and sewer).
- Removed numerous trees from streets.
- Swept 37 streets.
- Replaced 1 stop sign and 3 street signs.
- Replaced street light in 100 block of North Davis.
- Processed 926 tickets through municipal court.
- Responded to 30 accidents.
- Made 86 arrests.
- Wrote 894 citations.
- Recorded 76 offenses.
- Made 6 felony arrests in the Special Crimes Unit.
- Received animal control certification training.
- Achieved a 57% adoption rate at the animal shelter.
- Flushed 36 dead-end water mains.
- Made preparations to begin pumping Lake Sulphur Spring's water while Cooper Lake is being dredged.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of February 4, 2014; the Planning and Zoning meeting minutes of February 17, 2014; the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of February 18 and 24, 2014; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of December 16, 2013. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Walker moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2646, A REQUEST BY OWNER TIM KELTY TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE 400 BLOCK OF WILDCAT WAY, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS PART OF LOT 12 OF BLOCK 208-1-2 AND LOT 13 OF BLOCK 208-2, FROM SINGLE FAMILY (SF-6) TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL (HC)

This request is to rezone 29 acres of property along the north side of the 400 block Wildcat Way. Staff sent eight letters to property owners within 200' and received no responses. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the ordinance. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FINAL PLAT OF HERITAGE BUSINESS PARK, A REQUEST BY THE SULPHUR SPRINGS HOPKINS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, TO PLAT 97 ACRES BOUNDED BY COUNTY ROADS 3501, 3502, 3503, AND THE RAILROAD, INTO FOUR LOTS
STOPS AND ARRESTS

The Sulphur Springs Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation is proposing to subdivide the remaining 97 acres of Heritage Business Park into four lots. The plat is in the extraterritorial jurisdiction making the proposed new street in the county. The entire Industrial Park will be accessed through the proposed concrete street. No industrial traffic is proposed for the unimproved county roads. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the final plat. Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

There was no one to speak to this issue. Councilwoman Price made a motion to authorize the City Manager to make an offer to purchase property located at 410 Connally Street in the amount of \$67,000. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

There was no one to speak to this issue. Councilwoman Price made a motion to authorize the City Manager to make an offer to purchase property located at 402 Connally Street in the amount of \$52,400. 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 7:58 p.m.