

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

APRIL 1, 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. at 201 North Davis Street. 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
Phyllis Rogers, Municipal Court Judge
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources
Joey Baker, Airport Manager/Tourism Director
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Robert Lee, Director of Utilities
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.

Mayor John Sellers stated it is an honor and a privilege to preside over the first meeting in this wonderful historic building. He added that he and the City Council were ecstatic to be conducting this first meeting here at 201 North Davis Street. The building originally opened July 1914 as the Federal Post Office but was sold to the City of Sulphur Springs in the sixties and utilized as the Public Library from 1967 until

2000. The Mayor and many of the City Council checked out books in this building when it was a library. Now, in 2014, the second most historic public building in Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County is back in business. This is only the third permanent structure that has served as a City Hall and they have all been in this neighborhood. The first at the corner of Main Street and South Davis Street from the late 1800's until 1963, with the second located at 125 South Davis from 1963 until 2014. Hopefully, this will be our City Hall for many, many years to come.

PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Sellers read a proclamation acknowledging National Safe Digging Month which was presented to Jeanette Moser of Atmos Energy Corporation.

WHEREAS, each year, the nation's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage by those who fail to call 811 to have underground lines located prior to digging. Undesired consequences such as service interruption, damage to the environment and personal injury and even death are the potential results; and

WHEREAS, Atmos Energy, along with the 1500 Common Ground Alliance members, promote the National Call-Before-You-Dig number, 811, in an effort to reduce these damages. Designated by the FCC in 2005, 811 provides potential excavators and homeowners a simple number to reach their local One Call Center to request utility line locations at the intended dig site; and

WHEREAS, through education of safe digging practices, excavators and homeowners can save time and money keeping our nation safe and connected by making a simple call to 811 in advance of any digging project; waiting the required amount of time; respecting the marked lines by maintaining visual definition throughout the course of the excavation; and finally, digging with care around the marks; and

WHEREAS, all parties agree that safe digging is a shared responsibility. To know what's below, call 811 before you dig.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John A. Sellers, by virtue of authority vested in me as Mayor, and behalf of the City Council of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of April as "NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH" in the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Mayor Sellers then read a proclamation for Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service and presented it to Susan Kahn, RSVP Project Director.

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet city needs; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and nation, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to preserving the environment and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, national service participants serve in more than 70,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve with, both through their direct service and by recruiting and managing millions of additional volunteers; and,

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with mayors across the country to support the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service on April 1, 2014.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, John A. Sellers, Mayor of Sulphur Springs, Texas, do hereby proclaim April 1, 2014, as **National Service Recognition Day**, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our city, to thank those who serve, and to find ways to give back to our community.*

MANAGER'S REPORT

Prior to presenting the Manager's Report City Manager Maxwell thanked and recognized Peter Karstens, Finance Director for all his hard work on the New City Hall project as no detail went unnoticed.

NEW CITY HALL – This is it. We're here! The construction manager, KBL, is still

working on a punch list, but we are operating in the building now. Citizens are invited to come in and have a look around.

STREETS - Work is completed on Connally Street.

Mulberry and Rogers are under construction thanks to a grant from the USDA. Both streets will be reconstructed in concrete. Currently the Capital Construction Division is installing new water lines and new sewer lines on both streets.

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 was one workers' compensation claim and 5 liability claims submitted in March.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - The plant treated effluent to a daily average total suspended solids (TSS) reading of 3.63 mg/L in March. This number is well within our permit parameters, and it is exceptionally good considering that the treatment plant is operating on only 2 of our 3 filters. The third filter is being upgraded. When construction is finished in a few weeks, we will be able to take the remaining filters offline permanently. The new filter technology is that much better. Since we installed a new sludge press last fall, TMA organics has experienced much more efficient operations in their composting process. Our sludge is only 2% drier, but apparently that has made all the difference. We have not disposed any sludge at the landfill since August, 2013.

You might recall that the City entered into a contract with TMA in 2011 for treatment of our sludge. Rather than send the sludge to the landfill, TMA would compost the sludge in their proprietary rotating composters. The whole thing got off to a rocky start partially because of moisture content issues. It now appears that those issues are behind us. We pay TMA the same rate that we previously paid to haul and dispose of the sludge at the landfill. We gain the added benefit of a healthy local industry which can now market its products to other wastewater treatment plants around the country, and perhaps the world.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - There is no report regarding revenues and expenditures since the month just ended yesterday.

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Constructed concrete basins to house tertiary filters at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
- Performed various repairs and preventative maintenance measures at the WWTP.

- Hired a new master electrician to replace Mike Bentley who is retiring in June. The new electrician's name is John Smith...hard to remember.
- Checked out 2,661 materials from the library and saw computer usage of 1,582 users.
- Made 5 felony arrests in the special crimes unit.
- Responded to 292 animal control calls, and saw a 50% adoption rate.
- Hired Adrian Pruitt as a full time patrol officer.
- Responded to 28 accidents, made 89 arrests, wrote 760 citations and recorded 59 offenses.
- Processed 765 tickets through municipal court.
- Responded to 138 fire/rescue calls including 4 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 74 fire hydrants.
- Performed 67 fire inspections.
- Sold 6,734 gallons of JetA fuel and 1,075 gallons of AvGas.
- Repaired 15 ruptures water mains and 16 broken sewer mains.
- Unstopped 29 sewer mains.
- Washed 70,000 feet of sewer main, and video inspected 1,182 feet.
- Made 16 sewer repairs found during previous video inspections.
- Patched 94 potholes.
- Performed 19 street repairs following water or sewer repairs.
- Made 54 street repairs following Atmos repairs.
- Cleaned storm drains and catch basins.
- Swept 19 streets.
- Performed 18 building inspections, 11 electrical inspections, 4 plumbing inspections, 1 mechanical inspections and issued 20 building permits.
- Conducted 8 health inspections.
- Flushed 36 dead-end water mains.
- Continued treating Lake Sulphur Springs water.
- Oversaw the repainting of the Carter Street water tower, inside and out.
- Performed preventative maintenance on the SCADA (radio remote control) system at the Cooper Lake pump station.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of March 4, 2014; the Planning and Zoning meeting minutes of March 17, 2014; the Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of March 18, 2014; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of February 24, 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 PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL 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 is the public hearing and second reading on a 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 adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Aguilar seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A REQUEST BY TRAVEL TIME RV, LLC, TO PLAT LOCATED AT 1811 WEST INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS LOT 4 OF BLOCK 608 AND LOT 8 OF BLOCK 608-2, INTO ONE LOT

This plat is located in the City Limits and comprises almost 20 acres of undeveloped land along the north frontage road. Water is available along the frontage and the developer is proposing to extend sewer to this site. Preliminary engineering has been submitted and found to be satisfactory for the sewer extension. A Community Facilities Contract agreement will be required for the sewer line extension. The offsite extension will require easements. There was a brief general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the final plat contingent on the execution of a Community Facilities Contract. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2647, A REQUEST BY TRAVEL TIME RV, LLC, TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1811 WEST INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS LOT 4 OF 608 AND LOT 8 OF BLOCK 608-2, WHICH WAS JUST APPROVED CONTINGENT ON COMMUNITY CONTRACT FACILITIES EXECUTION AS LOT 1 OF BLOCK 1 OF TRAVEL TIME RV ADDITION, FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI) AND HEAVY COMMERCIAL (HC) TO ONE ZONING

CLASSIFICATION OF LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI)

The majority of this property is already zoned Light Industrial. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 1063 ADOPTING THE UPDATED WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

In order to comply with the provisions of the Texas Administrative Code, City staff has reviewed and updated the City's existing Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan based on an assessment of our previous five and ten year conservation target goals. The majority of the Plan remains the same as the one submitted in 2009. Changes and additions to the 2014 Plan include revisions for reported water use that are further refined in the Water Conservation Implementation Report. The changes were made to develop a uniform, consistent methodology and guidance for calculating water use and conservation by a municipality or water utility. Robert Lee, Director of Utilities, was available to answer any questions and presented the staff report. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE FOR PLACE 6

In accordance with Section 2.053(a) of the Texas Election Code the City Council election for Place 6 will not need to be conducted. The candidate, Kayla Price, is unopposed. Her name will appear on the ballot because of the election for Place 7. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to accept the Certificate of Unopposed Candidate for Place 6. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Sellers recognized past Mayor Gary Spraggins who was in the audience and very involved in the new City Hall project.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.