

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

AUGUST 5, 2014

7:00p.m.

Mayor Freddie Taylor called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:01 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

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

Absent: Councilman Oscar Aguilar

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Peter Karstens -Finance Director
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Joey Baker, Airport/Tourism Director
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources
Police Chief, Jay Sanders
Jason Ricketson, Captain SSPD
Justin Darrow, Traffic Division, Police Officer SSPD

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Taylor led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. Councilwoman Glass led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

The Oath of Office for Police Chief was given to Jay Sanders by Mayor Freddie Taylor.

Councilman Johnson gave a brief presentation of the history of the silver coin. He stated that about four years ago the City Council wanted a way to recognize outstanding behavior on behalf of the City of Sulphur Springs. It was determined that a silver coin

would be used which is similar to the "challenge" coin often used by the military and many police departments. He told the story of a WWI pilot that was shot down and how the coin saved his life. The silver coin has an engraving of the City Hall on one side and the City logo on the other. This is a very prestigious award to receive.

At this time a special recognition silver coin was presented to Finance Director Peter Karstens by Mayor Taylor on behalf of the entire City Council to recognize him for all of his hard work and diligence on the newly renovated City Hall.

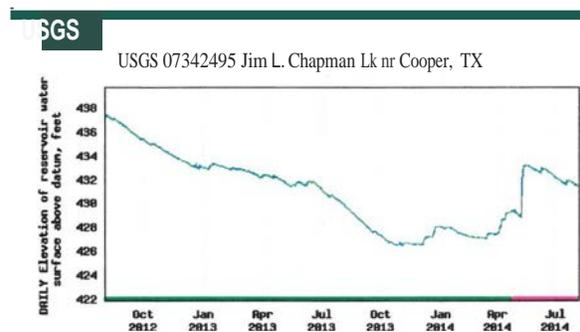
EDC Executive Director Roger Feagley distributed "State of the Economy" booklets and made a very informative and in-depth presentation regarding Hopkins County and the City of Sulphur Springs.

MANAGER'S REPORT

WATER - The dredging operation at Cooper Lake is only 25% complete.

Cooper Lake is 8.5 feet low, which is about 1.5 feet higher than it was this time last year.

STREETS - Davis Street is completed. This marks the end of road construction downtown.



For the month of August, the Streets Division and Capital Construction Division patched 1,073 potholes and made 51 major street repairs following utility repairs. We also repaired 200' of Rosemont Street and repaired three soft spots. We are 56% completed on pothole repairs. We will return to potholes again in September to finish them off.

In the meantime the Capital Construction Division will rebuild Rogers Street from Connally to Van Sickle. This is part of a USDA grant that is paying to rebuild Rogers and Mulberry. Mulberry is already completed.

CLAIMS- We did not have any worker's compensation claims in July. We did receive one liability claim from a woman who twisted her ankle in one of the parks. TML denied the claim.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - Total suspended solids (TSS) came in at 3.19 mg/L for August which is well within our permitted limit of 12 mg/L. The new filters are working as expected. I expect to continue to produce good numbers, at least as far as TSS goes.

In other respects the plant is still struggling. Dissolved oxygen levels continue to be very low. The plant failed one of its quarterly bio monitoring tests. We don't know why. All indications pointed to successful results. We will repeat the test in each of the next two months to determine if it is an issue with the plant or a testing issue.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES- Finance Director, Peter Karstens will **not** present the year-to-date summary of revenues and expenditures, since he just presented the budget at the earlier workshop.

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Repaired three storm drainage inlet boxes.
- Removed 9 trees from streets after storms.
- Installed 42 street signs.
- Installed 2 new stop signs.
- Repaired lighting in Pacific Park.
- Repaired lights at the Hopkins County Veterans Memorial.
- Installed school zone lights on League Street.
- Installed a new warning siren on College Street.
- Performed various repairs and preventative maintenance at wastewater treatment plant.
- Passed TCEQ inspection at wastewater treatment plant with no violations.
- Repaired 16 water mains and 8 sewer mains.
- Replaced 23 water meters.
- Unstopped 20 sewer mains.
- Repaired 2 manholes.
- Washed 73,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Made 5 additional sewer repairs as a result of video inspection (sewer camera).
- Flushed 35 dead end water mains.
- Opened the flood gates at Lake Sulphur Springs for 4 hours.
- Repaired fluoride transfer pump.
- Operated the water treatment plant on emergency generator while Oncor repaired a loose connection on an incoming power line.
- Responded to 132 fire/rescue calls including 5 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 84 fire hydrants.
- Conducted 12 health inspections and 42 code enforcement inspections.
- Conducted 34 building inspections, 8 electrical inspections, 9 plumbing inspections, 2 mechanical inspections and issued 18 building permits.
- Scheduled additional celebrations bring the total number of celebrations in the next 12 months to 432, spread out over 203 days.
- Checked out 4,044 materials from the library.
- Responded to 309 animal control calls while achieving a 41% adoption rate.

- Certified Officer Brian Shurtleff as a K-9 handler for narcotics interdiction.
- Received SWAT training and training for internet crimes against children.
- Made 1 felony arrest in the special crimes unit.
- Sold 1,805 gallons of AvGas and 7,695 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Hosted 5 softball tournaments.
- Fertilized baseball and softball fields.
- Repaired walls in restrooms at Pacific Park.
- Responded to 27 accidents, made 85 arrests, wrote 781 citations and recorded 87 offences.
- Attended driver safety training for all employees who drive city vehicles.
- Treated 157 million gallons of drinking water.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of July 1, 2014; the minutes of the Special City Council Workshop Session of July 22, 2014; the Downtown Revitalization meeting minutes of July 8, 2014; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of June 23, 2014. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tern Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2648 AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS, CHAPTER 15, BY ADDING ARTICLE VI, ADOPTING THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

City Attorney Jim McLeroy presented the staff report. The International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) is a model code that regulates the minimum maintenance requirements for existing buildings. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Mayor Pro Tern Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2650 AMENDING THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS ZONING ORDINANCE BY REPLACING IN ITS ENTIRETY SECTION 4.101 ENTITLED SIGNS AND IDENTIFICATION REGULATIONS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

City Attorney Jim McLeroy presented the staff report. Councilwoman Glass moved to postpone the item. Mayor Pro Tern Price seconded the motion to postpone. Councilman Sellers suggested the item be evaluated or even possibly "start from scratch". City Manager Maxwell stated he would like to visit with Tim Kelty regarding this issue. There was no one else to speak to the issue. The vote to postpone was as follows:

Ayes: Walker, Taylor, Glass, Price, Sellers
Nays: none
Abstain: Johnson

The motion to postpone carried.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2651
CREATING AN ENTERPRISE ZONE FOR SAPUTO DAFFY FOODS**

EDC Executive Director Roger Feagley presented the staff report. Saputo Dairy Foods is in the process of a ten million dollar expansion of its operation in Sulphur Springs. One of the incentives being requested by Saputo Dairy Foods is an enterprise zone/project. This ordinance will establish an enterprise zone/project and the majority of the benefits would be provided by the State of Texas. The City of Sulphur Springs will be asked at a future meeting to approve a one-year tax abatement and a sales tax rebate of \$500 in the form of a Section 380 agreement. Tom Yo of Saputo stated there would be no negative impact to the city. Joe Wallace of Saputo said the plan including replacing equipment providing more flexibility which in tum could potentially make them more productive with no more greater impact to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tern Price moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Councilman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR HEALTH
INSURANCE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS' EMPLOYEES**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. One bid was submitted by Blue Cross and the other was submitted by Highmark. Blue Cross, as the incumbent, is the only firm proposal (renewal) while Highmark is **conditional** on July claim experiences before their rates are finalized. We received several *"our rates would not be competitive"* letters from a few other companies. The proposed fixed costs are \$347,755 (Blue Cross) compared to \$325,765 (Highmark) while the Maximum Plan Costs is \$1,446,248 for Blue Cross compared to \$1,396,030 for Highmark. In analyzing the two proposals a significant amount of the difference of the cost factors comes from the costs specific of dependents (\$17,026). Because the renewal is 100% firm and in consideration of potential claim exposure issues staff recommends we stay with Blue Cross as our Reinsurance Carrier though it will cost an additional \$21,990. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to

accept the bids and award the contract to Blue Cross. Mayor Pro Tern Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

None.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:50p.m.