

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL**

**DECEMBER 3, 2013**

**7:00 p.m.**

Mayor John Sellers 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 John Sellers  
Mayor Pro Tem Freddie Taylor  
Councilman Craig Johnson

Councilwoman Kayla Price  
Councilwoman Emily Glass

Absent:  
Councilman Clay Walker  
Councilman Oscar Aguilar

Staff:  
Marc Maxwell, City Manager  
Gale Roberts, City Secretary  
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney  
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director  
Gordon Frazier, Human Resources 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.

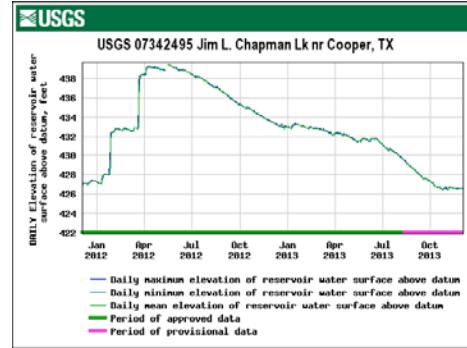
**PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Sellers reminded everyone of all the Christmas events scheduled such as the Lions Club Lighted Christmas Parade, Christmas in the Park at Heritage Park, Christmas on the Square in downtown Sulphur Springs, and the Northeast Texas Choral Society presentation of “Joy to the World”.

Councilman Johnson reminded everyone that Roger Brooks was at the Hampton and the meetings are open to the public.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

**COOPER LAKE** – Good news on the water front. The water level in Cooper Lake has stopped declining, at least for now. The reason for this is that the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has stopped pumping water from the Lake. NTMWD has pumped its maximum allocation from Cooper Lake, and it cannot pump any more until it rains. This limitation is the result of the amended Lake Jim Chapman (Cooper Lake) operating agreement we all signed in 2006.



Recent rains have mostly missed the Cooper Lake watershed, yet the sudden arrest in the decline of the water level is apparent on the graph. This is very good news for Sulphur Springs, as we still have 78% of our water remaining.

Irving is still pumping, but not at their maximum rate. Only one of its two pumps is running. Irving still has 45% of its water remaining, and it has been pumping at a rate of 5% of its maximum capacity every month. At that rate, and with minimal to moderate rainfall the Cooper Lake water level should remain steady for some time. Still, let's pray for rain!

**NEW CITY HALL** – Push it back another month. It looks like move-in will be in February sometime.

**BRANDING** - Roger Brooks is in town through the end of the week. Anyone interested in the branding effort can drop in and see the work in progress at the Hopkins Room at the Hampton Inn. Roger will be holding a briefing each morning at 9 a.m.

**CLAIMS** – We had two minor liability claims in November, one for pothole damages, and one for overflowing wastewater. Both have been submitted to TML and will probably be denied.

We did not have any Workers' Compensation claims, and we did not submit any property claims.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT** - The plant treated effluent to a daily average total suspended solids (TSS) reading of 6.40 mg/L in November. The November results are within our permit parameter of 15 mg/L, but we are still higher than what the

plant is capable of. I would like to see numbers in the 2 to 5 range. The upgraded tertiary filter that should be installed in the first quarter of next year will reduce the numbers substantially.

**REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES** – Finance Director, Peter Karstens will not present his customary summary of year-to-date revenues and expenditures, as it is very early in the fiscal year, and there is not much to report yet. He will resume his reporting in January.

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

- Treated 120 million gallons of Cooper Lake water.
- Performed repairs on Cooper Lake water pump #2.
- Repaired #3 water turbidity meter.
- Finished installing a new sludge press at wastewater treatment plant.
- Flushed 36 dead-end water mains.
- Processed 429 citations through municipal court.
- Served 3,987 library patrons, including 190 Saturday patrons.
- Responded to 208 animal control calls, and achieved an adoption rate of 70%.
- Placed 300 cubic yards of mulch at Kids Kingdom.
- Made some repairs at Kids Kingdom.
- Sprayed pre-emergent on all athletic fields.
- Sold 1,790 gallons of AvGas and 6,400 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Made plans for downtown Christmas events.
- Responded to 33 accidents, wrote 481 traffic citations, recorded 45 offenses and made 84 arrests.
- Made 8 felony arrests in the Special Crimes unit.
- Received police training in the areas of sex offender registration, arrest, search and seizure.
- Responded to 137 fire/rescue calls including 1 structure fire and 2 county calls.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 70 fire hydrants.
- Erected the Christmas tree.
- Lectured 27 people on fire.
- Repaired 16 water main ruptures.
- Replaced 43 water meters.
- Unstopped 27 sewer mains and repaired 2 mains.
- Washed 85,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Video inspected 2,360 feet of sewer mains.
- Patched 91 potholes and made 17 more extensive repairs following utility repairs.
- Removed 2 fallen trees from streets.

- Replaced 5 street signs and 2 stop signs.
- Swept 15 streets.
- Installed 520 feet of storm drain pipe on Connally Street.
- Planted pansies on the plaza.
- Conducted 8 building inspections, 6 electrical inspections, 8 plumbing inspections, 4 mechanical inspections and issued 13 building permits.
- Conducted 18 public nuisance inspections.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items on the Consent Agenda were reviewed: Consider for approval the City Council meeting minutes of November 5, 2013; the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting minutes of November 19, 2013; the Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of November 19, 2013; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of October 28, 2013. Councilwoman Price noted a correction to the P&Z minutes and moved to approve the minutes with the correction. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE CARTER STREET WATER TOWER REHABILITATION**

The City advertised and opened bids to clean, repair, repaint and prepare to return to service the Carter Street Water Tower. The following bids were received:

Anchor Contracting, LLC	Sulphur Springs, Texas	\$ 294,444
Tank Pro Inc.	North Port, Alabama	\$ 366,738
J & A Coating	Hugh Springs, Texas	\$ 375,635
Classic Protective Coatings	Menomonie, Wisconsin	\$ 390,150
Gulf State Painting	La Porte, Texas	\$ 391,000
Utility Service Company	Perry, Georgia	\$ 402,000
J R Stelzer Company	Lincoln, Nebraska	\$ 421,780
L C United	Sterling Heights, Michigan	\$ 464,000
Blastco	Houston, Texas	\$ 469,000
N G Painting	Kerrville, Texas	\$ 498,000
TMI	St. Paul, Minnesota	\$ 499,400
M K Painting	Wyandotte, Michigan	\$ 675,000

The low bid was submitted by Anchor Contracting, LLC of Sulphur Springs Texas to clean, repair and repaint the Carter Street Water Tower for the price of \$ 294,444 dollars. The owners were available to answer any questions. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to accept the bids and award the contract to Anchor Contracting LLC.

Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON TWO BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REINVESTMENT ZONE #1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The City Council members appointed to serve on this board in February of 2011 were Gary Spraggins, Oscar Aguilar, and Kayla Price. At the November 2013 City Council meeting Emily Glass was appointed as Chairperson. Terms of office are not to exceed two years according to the bylaws. Future board appointments will be conducted in September as the TIFRZ#1 board voted to have the same fiscal year as the City of Sulphur Springs. Mayor Sellers moved to reappoint Councilwoman Price and Councilman Aguilar. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM**

Carey Sartin addressed the City Council with his concerns regarding the abundance of professional buildings downtown. He loves the downtown and wants to see it flourish with a lot more foot traffic generated by boutiques, restaurants, and more retail. He requested the city put a moratorium on professional buildings downtown.

Charles Oxford addressed the City Council with a prepared statement regarding the ills of fluoridation of the drinking water

**ADJOURN**

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.