

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

JANUARY 3, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Craig Johnson 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 Craig Johnson
Mayor Pro Tem Freddie Taylor
Councilman Clay Walker
Councilman Oscar Aguilar
Councilman Gary Spraggins
Councilwoman Kayla Price
Councilman John Sellers

Absent: None

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Peter Karstens, Director of Finance
Gordon Frazier, Director of Human Resources
Joey Baker, Director of Tourism/Airport

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Johnson led in the pledge of allegiance and Mayor Pro Tem Taylor led in the invocation.

MANAGER'S REPORT

GILMER STREET – Gilmer Street is nearly done. We have opened the street from Connally to Main, although we still have a portion of the intersection with Main closed. Next will be Main/College along with some preparatory work in the center of the square.

SUMMER WINTER PAVING PROGRAM – R.K. Hall is making some progress. The sub-grade preparations are done on Seventh, Dena, Clayton, Elizabeth and Gladys Alexander. No work has been done yet on Fisher, Georgia, Brinker or Lamar.

HOME GRANT PROGRAM - We had five successful applicants on the previous round of HOME grant funding. All five have now had their old dilapidated homes demolished and removed by the City. Two of the applicants' homes are now dried-in, and the others are about to be under construction. The contractor has until July to complete the homes.

We have five applicants for funding for additional homes in the works. Some of them look fairly promising. The HOME grant program is funded by HUD. It pays for the replacement of old dilapidated homes for qualifying low and moderate income applicants.

CLAIMS – We had two minor liability claims in December. One for a broken window and another for flooding caused by a broken water line. Both have been submitted to TML.

We also had two minor workers compensation claims. One employee broke his thumb, and another stepped on a nail. Neither resulted in lost time.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES – In lieu of the usual financial report, the annual audit will be presented later on the agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS – Elsewhere around the City, employees:

- Responded to 138 fire/rescue calls.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 80 fire hydrants.
- Replaced 6 street signs.
- Performed 52 fire inspections.
- Removed the Christmas tree.
- Saw the retirement of Assistant Police Chief Robert Stidham.
- Made 4 felony arrests in the special crimes unit.
- Responded to 223 animal control calls and found homes for 71% of the unclaimed pets.
- Repaired 42 ruptured water mains.
- Replaced 13 water meters.
- Unstopped 23 sewer mains and repaired 4.
- Washed 65,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Checked out 1,894 materials from the Library.
- Repaired Cooper Lake pumps.
- Hauled 705 cubic yards of sludge to the landfill.

- Achieved a daily average total suspended solids count of 2.17 mg/L, well within our permit limitations.
- Patched 65 potholes and made 27 extensive street repairs following utility repairs.
- Repainted crosswalks at schools.
- Conducted 17 health inspections, 25 public nuisance inspections and issued 3 health permits.
- Abated 3 substandard structures, all were done by the owners.
- Conducted 13 building inspections, 27 electrical inspections, 20 plumbing inspections, 11 mechanical inspections, 21 miscellaneous inspections and issued 17 building permits.
- Began removing numerous dead trees at Coleman Park.
- Began renovation of Soccer Field #5.
- Flushed 37 dead-end water mains.
- Performed preventative maintenance on the raw water pumps at Lake Sulphur Springs.
- Sold 8,111 gallons of JetA fuel and 1,601 gallons of AvGas.
- Responded to 45 accidents, made 72 arrests, wrote 475 citations and recorded 57 offenses.
- Treated 116 million gallons of drinking water.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items on the Consent Agenda were reviewed: Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of December 61, 2011; Special City Council meeting minutes of December 9, 2011; Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of December 20, 2011; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of November 28, 2011. There was no one to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Sellers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS 2011

Randy Howard of Pingleton, Howard, & Company, P.C., presented the 2011 audit to the City Council. The City of Sulphur Springs continues to be in excellent financial condition. Mr. Howard recognized Finance Director Karstens, City Manager Maxwell, and city staff for an exemplary job. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilwoman Price moved to accept the audit as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2608, A REQUEST BY OWNERS JEFF AND SUE ORWOSKY TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN WEST POSEY LANE AND VAUGHN DRIVE, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS LOTS 3, 4, 5, AND 6 OF BLOCK 232 FROM SINGLE FAMILY 6,000 (SF-6); LOT 3 TO LIGHT COMMERCIAL (LC) AND LOTS 4, 5, AND 6 TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL (HC)

The owners are requesting to change the zoning of four of the five replatted lots, one lot to Light Commercial and three lots to Heavy Commercial from Single Family 6,000. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to adopt the ordinance as presented on the second and final reading. Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2609 AMENDING SECTION 23-28 OF THE SULPHUR SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

This ordinance sets the Hotel Occupancy Tax Rate at 3%. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Spraggins moved to reduce the tax rate from 6% to 3% by adopting the ordinance as presented on the seconded and final reading. Councilwoman Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BIDS AD AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR TWO EXTENDED CAB BACKHOE LOADERS

Staff advertised for bids on two backhoes and received one bid. The bid was submitted by Hisle Bros, Inc., in Ada, Oklahoma, was a total of \$133,000 (\$66,500 each) for 2 Case backhoes. Comparable bids from Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) and the Texas Buy Board are \$81,000 and \$98,000 respectively. There was no one else to speak to this issue. Councilman Spraggins moved to accept the bid and award the contract to Hisle Bros Inc. Councilman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

None.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.