Mayor Spraggins 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 Gary Spraggins
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson
Councilman Clay Walker
Councilman Freddie Taylor
Councilman Chris Brown
Councilman Charles Oxford

Absent: Councilman Oscar Aguilar

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
      Gale Roberts, City Secretary
      Frank Bauer, City Attorney
      Peter Karstens, Director of Finance
      Johnny Vance, Director of Community Development
      Gordon Frazier, Director of Human Resources
      Roger Feagley, Executive Director of EDC

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION
Mayor Spraggins led in the pledge of allegiance and Councilman Taylor led the invocation.

MANAGER’S REPORT
HOUSTON STREET - Water, sewer and drainage improvements are completed all the way to League Street. A contractor is now cement-stabilizing the sub-base. After that the capital construction crew will begin constructing the concrete street and sidewalks from Sunset to League. This will complete Phase II of the Houston Street project. After that crews will start on the third and final phase, Church to Jackson.
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT - The taxiway reconstruction is completed. The runway reconstruction project is underway. Austin Road and Bridge is the contractor. This $3.7 million project is 90% grant funded. Expect the runway to be completed this fall.

CONNALLY STREET - Work is progressing quickly on Connally Street. The street concrete work is completed. The brick seat-walls are completed. The streetlights are set. Sidewalk construction is underway. Landscaping and bricks will be next. We are still expecting to be completed in September.

CLAIMS – We did not have any worker’s compensation claims in July.

We received one liability claim in July. A commercial property owner claims that water damage from a ruptured fire sprinkler in his building is the city’s fault. The claim was submitted to the TML risk pool. I expect them to deny the claim.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES – Finance Director, Peter Karstens will not present a report on year-to-date revenues and expenditures. We will take up this matter at next week’s budget meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS – Elsewhere around the City, employees:
  o Made 34 street repairs, 13 of which were the result of prior utility repairs.
  o Helped with July 4th celebration.
  o Repaired and replaced various street signs.
  o Trimmed trees at 4 locations for greater visibility.
  o Mowed 37 lots, ditches and rights of way.
  o Conducted 32 health inspections and 33 public nuisance inspections.
  o Conducted 30 building inspections, 33 electrical inspections, 26 plumbing inspections, 23 mechanical inspections, 19 miscellaneous inspections and issued 20 building permits.
  o Abated 3 substandard structures (all by rehabilitation), bringing to total to 445 since the beginning of the program.
  o Sold 190 gallons of jet fuel and 1,061 gallons of aviation gas.
  o Responded to 44 accidents, made 75 arrests, wrote 535 tickets and recorded 75 offenses.
  o Received police training in the following areas: undercover operations, tactical responses, street level drug interdiction, Mexican cartels, gangs in Texas and advanced concealment methods.
  o Received the North Region Narcotics Officer of the Year award. Congratulations Sgt. McClure.
  o Made 4 felony arrests in the special crimes unit.
  o Responded to 239 animal control calls, took in 78 dogs and cats, released 6 to their owners and found homes for 60. That is an 83% adoption rate.
- Processed 627 tickets through Municipal Court.
- Treated 160 million gallons of drinking water.
- Trimmed plantings on Main Street.
- Hosted a state baseball tournament.
- Aerated and fertilized athletic fields.
- Responded to 126 fire/rescue calls including 3 structure fires.
- Conducted 47 fire inspections.
- Maintained 110 fire hydrants.
- Issued 3 weed tickets.
- Repaired 17 water breaks.
- Installed 7 new water taps and replaced 18 meters.
- Unstopped 16 sewer mains.
- Cleaned 85,000 feet of sewer mains on routine cleaning.
- Repaired 9 manholes and cleared and mowed 3,500 feet of sewer easements. Made repairs on wastewater filters, lift stations and sludge basins.
- Flushed 38 dead-end water mains.
- Repaired level-transmitter at Coleman Lake water tower.
- Repaired chlorine meter.

**CONSENT AGENDA**
The following items on the Consent Agenda were reviewed: Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of July 6, 2010; the Planning and Zoning Commission meetings minutes of July 19, 2010; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of June 28, 2010. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Brown seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

*City Secretary Roberts stated the minutes for the Economic Development Corporation are regular meeting minutes and not special meeting minutes.*

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO.2574 ESTABLISHING REASONABLE AND PRUDENT RATES OF SPEED ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF STATE HIGHWAY 11**
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked what it would take to get a signal light for the intersection of State Highway 11 bypass and Arbala Road. City Manager Maxwell said that a letter had already been sent requesting the study by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) be expedited. City Manager Maxwell also stated that he had called Brad Martin, TxDOT Area Engineer, to reiterate this request due to the accident that occurred today. Councilman Brown stated that he believes sixty miles per hour (60 mph) is too
Councilman Oxford moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2575 PROHIBITING THE SALE OR DELIVERY OF RESTRICTED SMOKING MATERIALS TO INDIVIDUALS BELOW THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE (21); PROHIBITING THE SALE WITHIN 1,500 FEET OF PROTECTED AREAS; MATERIALS SUBJECT TO THIS REGULATION SHALL BE THOSE SUBSTANCES KNOWN AS SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS OR SALVIA DIVINORUM; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Councilman Brown and Councilman Oxford inquired as to the banning of this product completely. City Attorney Frank Bauer explained the State of Texas has not deemed K-2 as a controlled substance and cities that are banning K-2 should be prepared for costly litigation. Councilman Oxford stated the cities that he knew of that had completely banned K-2 were cities that had “deep pockets” and were not in the process of facing current budget woes. There was a general discussion regarding K-2 and its repercussions. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Oxford moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2576 INCREASING THE APPROPRIATIONS TO $25,079,629.00

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. He explained that during the fiscal year budget for 2009 the city borrowed funds to purchase vehicles and equipment including new police cruisers for the Police Department and bunker gear for the Fire Department. These particular items were not actually purchased until this budget year (2010). This budget amendment officially places those purchases within this year’s budget limitation. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Councilman Brown seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.
DISCUSSION/ACTION ON HEALTH INSURANCE BIDS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES
Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. The City of Sulphur Springs continues a partially self-funded program of health insurance for its employees. We requested proposals for reinsurance coverage only. Similar to last year we received proposals from two insurance carriers, Blue Cross and Highmark. Blue Cross, as the incumbent, is a firm proposal while Highmark is conditional on July claim experiences before their rates are finalized. The staff recommendation is to stay with Blue Cross at a $60,000 Specific Stop Loss. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Oxford moved to approve Blue Cross at a $60,000 Specific Stop Loss. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FINAL PLAT OF LOT 1A OF BLOCK 403, A REQUEST BY OWNER ARVIS TANTON TO REPLAT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 210 PIPELINE ROAD, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS PART OF LOT 1A AND 1A OF BLOCK 403 INTO ONE LOT
Johnny Vance, Director of Community Development, presented the staff report. This plat combines Carriage House with additional acreage creating a new lot of 10.5 acres. Staff recommends approval of this plat and the execution of a Community Facilities agreement contingent upon the approved engineering for street and drainage improvements on Pipeline Road back to Jackson Street. There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson to approve the plat as presented with the staff recommendation. Councilman Oxford seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS FOR THE SULPHUR SPRINGS/HOPKINS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
The Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation would like to make two changes to the current bylaws. The first modification is to change the address from 1200 Houston Street, which was the old location, to their new location at 1200 Enterprise Lane. The second change deals with writing checks. Current language requires two signatures on all checks regardless of the amount. The change proposed would require two signatures on all checks over five hundred dollars ($500.00). These changes will reflect the correct address of the corporation and will allow for staff to handle small expenditures quickly. Council Oxford insured that there were check and balances in place when only one signature was required. Mayor Spraggins added that he was at their last meeting to present plaques to outgoing members Carl Bryan and Bobby Gillis. The Mayor stated that this item was discussed and they have a very thorough plan
as to accountability each month. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor moved to approve these two modifications to the bylaws. Councilman Brown seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM
Sonia Clayton, 3645 FM 2297, addressed the City Council expressing her concerns over the intersection of Arbala Road and the new State Highway 11 bypass. She spoke at the last meeting but wanted to reiterate that we need flashing lights or a 4-way STOP at the intersection for the State Highway 11 bypass and Posey Lane. There was a major accident there today and she is adamant about something being done at this very dangerous intersection.

City Manager Maxwell told Ms. Clayton that he had spoken again with the Area Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation and the study for that intersection is in progress.

ADJOURN
With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.