

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**MAY 4, 2010**

**7:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mayor Gary Spraggins  
Councilman Oscar Aguilar

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager  
Gale Roberts, City Secretary  
James Litzler, City Attorney  
Gordon Frazier, Director of Human Resources  
Johnny Vance, Director of Community Development  
Peter Karstens, Director of Finance  
Craig Vaughn, Director of Utilities

**PLEDGE AND INVOCATION**

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

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

**HOUSTON STREET** - Street construction continues westward toward League Street. Utilities have been reconstructed up to Sunset Street, and the concrete street construction is a block or two behind that.

**MUNICIPAL AIRPORT** - The taxiway reconstruction is nearly completed. All we lack are a couple of punch list items. Next week we will hold the runway preconstruction meeting with Austin Road and Bridge. This \$3.7 million project is 90% grant funded. Expect the runway to be completed this fall.

**CONNALLY STREET** - Work is progressing well on Connally Street. Water and Sewer improvements are completed, and excavation/sub-base stabilization is underway. Expect the project to be completed in September, weather permitting.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP** - The annual event went very smoothly. As a result of the clean-up, 2,480 cubic yards of debris was taken to the Republic Malloy Landfill.

**CLAIMS** – We did not receive any liability claims in April.

We had one minor workers' compensation claim.

**REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES** – Finance Director, Peter Karstens will present a report on year-to-date revenues and expenditures.

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

- Processed 624 tickets through municipal court.
- Sold 13,320 gallons of jet fuel and 1,997 gallons of AvGas.
- Treated 111 million gallons of drinking water.
- Repaired #3 water treatment filter.
- Repaired water treatment clarifiers.
- Removed trees from Lake Sulphur Springs dam.
- Responded to 215 animal control calls, received 60 animals at the shelter, released 1 animal to its owner and adopted 41.
- Responded to 91 fire/rescue calls including 2 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 116 fire hydrants.
- Assisted with flag retirement (burning) ceremony on the square.
- Conducted 38 fire inspections.
- Received police training in the areas of use of force, homicide investigation, SWAT, and management.
- Responded to 55 accidents, made 70 arrests, wrote 661 citations, and recorded 75 offenses.
- Seized 30 pounds of marijuana, 37 marijuana plants, 66.7 grams of cocaine and 2.4 grams of methamphetamine.
- Patched potholes at 38 locations and repaired 14 street cuts after utility repairs.
- Conducted 18 health inspections and 19 public nuisance inspections.
- Conducted 43 building inspections, 43 electrical inspections, 42 plumbing inspections, 27 mechanical inspections, 17 miscellaneous inspections and issued

26 building permits.

- Relocated electrical services on existing buildings on Connally Street.
- Repaired 11 water breaks.
- Installed 4 new water taps and 17 water meters.
- Unstopped 30 sewer mains.
- Cleaned 77,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Raised 3 manholes and installed 1 sewer tap.
- Repaired 7 sewer services.
- Performed preventative maintenance at wastewater treatment plant.
- Repaired #4 tertiary wastewater filter.
- Treated wastewater to a monthly average total suspended solids reading of 4.41 mg/L.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items on the Consent Agenda were reviewed: Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of April 6, 2010; the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting minutes of April 19, 2010; the Zoning Board of Adjustments meetings minutes of April 20, 2010; the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of April 20, 2010; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of March 22, 2010. Councilman Oxford had a question about the quorum and majority vote requirement of the Zoning Board of Adjustments. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Oxford seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2573, A REQUEST BY OWNER GLENN IRVIN & CO. REAL ESTATE TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 212 WEST SHANNON ROAD, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS LOT 37 OF BLOCK 212, FROM HEAVY COMMERCIAL (HC) TO LIGHT COMMERCIAL (LC)**

The Director of Community Development, Johnny Vance, presented the staff report. The property owner requested to rezone the property to Light Commercial (LC) which would require a wooden privacy fence instead of a masonry wall as a buffer between his property and the adjoining property which is zoned Multi-Family. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Councilman Oxford seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 996 APPOINTING A SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE HOME GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVING THE SCORING CRITERIA**

This is the next step in the process for the HOME Grant the city applied for from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Resolution No. 996 appoints a committee to score the applications received through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs home owner-occupied program grant and approves the scoring criteria for the evaluation process. There was no one else to speak to the issues. Councilman Oxford moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

*For a matter of record, Mayor Pro Tem Brown read the committee members names:*

*Valanderous Bell  
John Cooper  
Ann Gregg  
Marc Maxwell  
Gordon Frazier*

**DISCUSSION OF TAX ABATEMENT POLICY**

Every two years the city must adopt a tax abatement policy to direct its considerations if and when a tax abatement is brought to the city for approval. Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. Copies of the current policy, EDC's recommended policy, an excerpt from the Attorney General's EDC handbook on the explanation of tax abatements, a future resolution, and a copy of the ordinance adopted by the city authorizing tax abatements in the city were distributed to the City Council. This item will be placed on the June 1, 2010 agenda for City Council action.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM**

*Councilman Johnson reiterated that the City Council can take no action on items brought forth during the Visitors and Public Forum of the meeting. The council will be allowed to receive input or information for a future agenda items but will not be allowed to enter into discussions.*

Bette Landis addressed the City Council asking for repairs to the railing around the ditches at Easy and Atkins Streets. She also stated the streetlights were covered by trees in the same vicinity and she said the dead-end street needed a "STOP" sign.

Marion Cox, Executive Director of Shadow Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center, talked about the facility. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life for those with disabilities and/or debilitating situations and make a positive difference in the lives of volunteers, staff and the community. They plan to accomplish this through education, physical exercise, a sense of responsibility and self esteem building by utilizing the therapeutic benefits of horseback riding and horsemanship. The facility will be open five days a week. She also stated that money and volunteers are greatly in need and would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers need to be at least 14 years of age and able to volunteer for at least one hour a day.

Councilman Oxford extended an invitation to all for Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, to attend the Hopkins County Christian Alliance prayer time hosted by the First Baptist Church. A baked potato luncheon will be provided from 1130A - 1210P with prayer time scheduled from 1P - 130P.

**ADJOURN**

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.