

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Kayla Price called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:03 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

Mayor Kayla Price
Mayor Pro Tem Emily Glass
Councilman Craig Johnson
Councilman Clay Walker
Councilman Oscar Aguilar
Councilman Freddie Taylor
Councilman John Sellers

Absent: None

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Peter Karstens, Finance Director
Shane Shepard, Director Community Development
Russ Nuss, Public Works Director
Jay Sanders, SSPD Police Chief
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources
Mike Allen, Engineering Technician
Roger Feagley, EDC Executive Director

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Price led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. Mayor Pro Tem Glass led in the invocation

PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Price read a proclamation declaring February as Black History Month.

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 2016 marks the 90th annual celebration of Black History since Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian instituted Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the Black 19th century abolitionist Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, the first official Black History Month was announced in 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford, who urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;” and

WHEREAS, Black History Month affords the special opportunity to become more knowledgeable about Black heritage, and to honor the many Black leaders who have contributed to the progress of our nation; and

WHEREAS, such knowledge can strengthen the insight of all our citizens regarding the issues of human rights, the great strides that have been made in the crusade to eliminate the barriers of equality for minority groups, and the continued struggle against racial discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE I, KAYLA PRICE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, and on behalf of the City Council of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of February as

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

and urge all residents to join together in making this a period of rededication to the principles of justice and equality for all people.

Signed and sealed this 2nd day of February 2016.

Kayla Price, Mayor

Roger Feagley, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation, presented a State of the Economy address to the City Council.

Councilman Sellers told everyone that the Daytripper episode featuring Sulphur Springs would premier Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. on PBS/KERA (locally Channel 13). He also added that Hope Cain, Director of Library Services, has future plans to have an event

to feature the episode which showcased the music collection as well as many other local venues.

MANAGER'S REPORT

STREETS, WATER AND SEWER - The Rockdale Road reconstruction project is nearly complete. Westbrook Concrete Contractors is finished pouring the concrete. We only lack three driveway approaches. We plan to open the street to through traffic next week. This project finishes Rockdale Road on the north side of Interstate 30.

Plano Street is also nearly complete. It will be paved on Friday. This \$268,000 project is a complete reconstruction of Plano Street from Texas Street westward to the cul-de-sac. It includes new water main, new sewer main and a new street. The sewer main and water main have been replaced.

Bill Bradford Road has begun. Utilities work has started on Tennessee Street, which is a part of the project. Demolition on Bill Bradford road will begin on Monday, February 15. This \$1.4 million project will include water and sewer utilities, underground drainage on the western end of the street and complete reconstruction of the street. Most of the street will be paved with asphalt, but both ends of the project will be rebuilt with concrete for 500' on each end.

DAVIS/TOMLINSON PARKING LOT - Demolition will begin on Friday. Work will begin on the south side of the project and progress to the north. Doing it this way will preserve some of the parking throughout the project for nearby businesses.

JEFFERSON STREET PARKING LOT - This is a County project at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Rosemont. The new lot will have 90 spaces. The County is constructing the lot in concrete and the City is installing lights and landscaping per our earlier agreement at the time the tax increment reinvestment zone was created. When the County opted into the zone, the City committed to beautification of the lot when it was built.

CLAIMS – We did not have any workers' compensation claims in January.

We did not have any liability claims in January.

We did submit one claim to the TML Risk Pool for the K-9 vehicle that was destroyed in the fire at Toliver Ford.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REMODEL – The project is nearing completion. Tile setters are placing the tile now. Expect the project to be completed before the March City Council meeting.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - Total suspended solids (TSS) came in at .81 mg/L, well within the limit of 15 mg/L.

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

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Installed wiring for new early warning siren at the Police Department. You may have heard it.
- Replaced the solar batteries on the “No Thru Truck” sign at the city limits on all state highways.
- Repaired the flashing lights on the Douglas “School Zone” lights.
- Replaced some of the lamps around Celebration Plaza.
- Began electrical work on new Buford Pavilion.
- Repaired motor on an airport hangar door.
- Repaired the heater at the animal shelter.
- Repaired A/C unit at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
- Cleaned the filters at the WWTP.
- Repaired/rebuilt 2 pumps at the WWTP.
- Replaced a magnolia tree that had been broken during a storm.
- Conducted 25 building inspections, 13 electrical inspections, 12 plumbing inspections, 4 mechanical inspections, and issued 20 building permits.
- Responded to 112 fire/rescue calls including 5 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 89 fire hydrants.
- Processed 574 citations through municipal court.
- Checked out 3,761 items to library patrons.
- Sold 1,271 gallons of AvGas and 7,540 gallons of Jet-A fuel.
- Recovered nearly \$.25 million in stolen UTVs.
- Made 66 arrests, recorded 65 offences, wrote 610 traffic citations and responded to 33 accidents.
- Repaired 7 water main ruptures.
- Unstopped 33 sewer mains and repaired 8 sewer mains.
- Replaced 7 water meters.
- Washed 75,000’ of sewer mains.
- Smoke-tested, filmed and performed sewer repairs on segments 14, 19, 31, 39 and on Houston Street.
- Flushed 36 dead-end water mains.
- Replaced the mixer in the Coleman water tower.
- Treated 121 million gallons of potable water.
- Sprayed sports fields with pre-emergent.

- Mowed the airport, parks and senior citizens center.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of January 5, 2016; the Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting minutes of January 12, 2016; and the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of January 26, 2016. There was no one to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Glass made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS 2015

Kirk Evans of Evans, Pingleton & Howard, PLLC, presented the 2015 audit to the City Council. The City of Sulphur Springs continues to be in excellent financial condition. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to accept the audit as presented. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON REPORT REGARDING TRAFFIC STOPS AND ARRESTS

Police Chief Sanders presented the staff report. In accordance with Article 2.132(b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures Law Enforcement Policy agencies must submit information collected to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Glass moved to approve the report as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1099 CALLING FOR ELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL PLACES 4 AND 5, NAMING ELECTION JUDGES AND SETTING DATES FOR EARLY VOTING.

(La discusión/acción en la Resolución el número 1099(S) pidiendo la elección coloca 4 y 5, llamando a jueces de elección, y poniendo fechas para la votación temprana.)

City Secretary Roberts presented the staff report. This resolution calls for a City Council election for Places 4 and 5 to be held Saturday, May 7, 2016. The resolution also sets the dates for making application for place on ballot, for early voting and for mail ballot deadlines as well as naming the Early Voting Election Clerk and the Election Judges.

This resolution was presented in English and Spanish. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers moved to approve the resolution(s) as presented. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1100 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST TO BECOME A RESERVATION SYSTEM PARTICIPANT TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR HOME FUNDS

Gordon Frazier, Human Resources Director, presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. The HOME Program consists of Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance for housing reconstruction and rehabilitation. Funds are reserved for the City, and we can access those funds (when and if they are available) once we have a qualified homeowner. Project costs will include eligible hard and soft costs and allowable administration/operating funds. This is similar to the Reservation System the City participated in which expired March 28, 2015. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR BANK DEPOSITORY

Peter Karstens, Finance Director, presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions.

****Mayor Pro Tem Glass, as an employee of Alliance Bank, and Councilman Sellers, as an employee of City National Bank, recused themselves from the meeting as each of these banks submitted proposals on the depository.**

He stated that every five years cities are required to go out for proposals for their Bank Depository. Alliance Bank, City National Bank, and Guaranty Bank and Trust responded to the request for proposals. The responses were graded per criteria included in the request for proposal. Guaranty Bank and Trust has been the City's Bank Depository for over 10 years.

The grading matrix weighs the cost of the service versus the interest paid. It also looks at the ability to provide all the services requested as well as those things such as collateral which are required not only by state law but by our own policies. In the case of collateral the city is more restrictive in its requirements than state law.

Also, staff would like to reserve the option for the city to choose a second depository bank should market conditions deteriorate. The staff recommendation is to continue with Guaranty Bank and Trust as the Depository Bank with the condition (written in the contract) that the city reserves the right to choose a secondary depository bank for some of its banking activities.

There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve Guaranty Bank and Trust as the City's Bank Depository and City National Bank as the secondary depository bank. Councilman Aguilar seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A MOTION TO APPROVE A SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ON MOCKINGBIRD LANE

City Manager Maxwell presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. In February 2015 staff went out for bids for the South Broadway sewer main. The lowest bid received came in at \$230,570, more than double the estimate. Since then staff has identified an alternative project that would divert flow away from the Mockingbird Lane sewer main. If approved this project would divert flows from McDonald's, Whataburger, panda Express, and half of the Brittany Square Apartments. Instead of going to the Mockingbird sewer main, it would go to a main that begins behind Furr's and goes east from there. At an estimated cost of \$51,900, the proposed project would construct an 8" main from a manhole in front of EZ-Mart to another manhole behind Furr's. Once completed the project would reduce the Mockingbird sewer load capacity from 97% capacity to 79% and increase the existing Furr's sewer line from 11% capacity to 34%. Staff also recommends that we also replace and upgrade the sewer main that serves McDonald's, Whataburger, Panda Express, and half of the Brittany Square Apartments. This would cost an additional \$79,500, but it needs to be done. The existing line is clay tile and is showing signs of inflow and infiltration. It is not critical, but we are going to have to do it sooner or later. The proposed project estimated cost is \$131,500. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the proposed project. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1101, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS, PROHIBITING OPEN CARRYING OF HANDGUNS DURING THE CITY MEETINGS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT; AND AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS SO SAYING

City Manager Maxwell presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. This resolution would prohibit openly carrying handguns into any city meeting which is subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act, and authorizes the placement of signs so saying. There was a general discussion regarding the issue. Charles Oxford asked why the City Council was not addressing sport venues, etc. City Manager Maxwell explained that the City Council can only act on meetings that fall under the Texas Open Meetings Act. There was another brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC FORUM

Charles Oxford apologized to the City Council, specifically to Mayor Price, for stating at the last City Council meeting that no one had thanked him for mowing around the sign at the north end of town when, in fact, Mayor Price had thanked him.

Mayor Pro Tem Glass requested that the Senior Citizens Building be on the next agenda to discuss possible grants as we have outgrown the building.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.