

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

MARCH 1, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Kayla Price called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 6:04 p.m. Councilman Johnson moved to adjourn to executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551.071, Consultation with attorney pending litigation and an executive session item in accordance with Texas Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551.071, personnel matters specifically relating to the position of the Municipal Court Judge. Mayor Pro Tem Glass seconded. There was no one present to speak to the issue. The vote was unanimous. 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 - left at 7:18 PM
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
Jay Sanders, SSPD Police Chief
Jason Ricketson, SSPD Captain
Josh Shufeldt, SSPD Officer
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources
Phyllis Rogers, Municipal Court Judge
Brian Shurtleff, SSPD Officer
Brad Horton, SSPD Officer

RECONVENE

Mayor Price reconvened the meeting into open session at 707PM.

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

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

PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the citizens of the great State of Texas make every effort to preserve, protect, and promote the diversified and cultural history of our state; and

WHEREAS, Wednesday, March 2, 2016, the State of Texas will celebrate its 180th year since the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence creating the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in February 1845 the Republic of Texas approved a resolution to enter the Union and part of that resolution, which came to be known as the Constitution of 1845, stated that Texas would retain its right to divide into four states in addition to the original Texas. The Republic of Texas existed for nine years before joining the Union as the 28th state on December 29, 1845; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature purchased the land and buildings of the Alamo complex in the early part of the 20th century and designated the Alamo chapel as an official Texas State Shrine. Alamo Day is celebrated on March 6th of each year; and

WHEREAS, Texas is known as the Lone Star State and the flag displays a single five-point white star on a field of blue with an upper white horizontal stripe and a lower red horizontal stripe; and

WHEREAS, in 1826 the Texas Rangers, a unique group of lawmen used to track down outlaws, settle feuds, and reconcile land disputes, were established by Stephen F. Austin. In 1935, the Texas Rangers became a branch of the Texas Department of Public Safety and today the organization still works for law and order in the state; and

WHEREAS, Texas is the only state that was a Republic before joining the Union, the second largest state in land mass, and the second largest in population. It occupies about seven percent of the total land and water areas of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kayla Price, Mayor of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2016 as

“TEXAS HISTORY MONTH”

and urge all citizens to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

It is so proclaimed this the 1st day of March 2016.

Police Chief Jay Sanders along with Captain Jason Ricketson presented Sulphur Springs Police Officer Josh (Joshua) Shufeldt with a Life Saving ribbon. With no medical units on the scene, Officer Shufeldt began chest compressions on an unresponsive overdose victim. The victim made a full recovery thanks to the quick and professional action by Officer Shufeldt and his heroic life saving measures.

Councilman Aguilar is looking for celebrity participants for the steer riding competition. The rodeo will be held at the Civic Center this April 22 & 23, 2016.

MANAGER’S REPORT

STREETS, WATER AND SEWER - The Rockdale Road reconstruction project is complete. This project finishes Rockdale Road on the north side of Interstate 30.

Plano Street is also complete. This \$268,000 project was 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 is progressing slowly from west to east. The road is closed to through traffic, but open to customers of the businesses located in the closed portion of the road, namely Village Pawn and Gun Shop and Sulphur Springs Floral.

This \$1.4 million project includes water and sewer utilities, underground drainage on the western end of the street and complete reconstruction of the street. Previously I reported that the street would be paved in asphalt with 500’ feet of concrete at both ends. Staff is presently evaluating whether to construct the entire street with concrete. We recently got a great bid on concrete on Rockdale Road, and the contractor who performed the work did a good job. We are going to bid the job both ways and bring it to the City Council at a future meeting.

DAVIS/TOMLINSON PARKING LOT - Demolition has been delayed pending a signed agreement with Tesla. Once demolition begins, 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 February.

We did not have any liability claims in February.

We were served one lawsuit in February.

We did submit one claim to the TML Risk Pool for the tower/fire truck that was rear-ended by a hit and run driver. The tower needs to be recertified, but there was little or no visible damage to the truck.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REMODEL – The project is 99.999% complete, staff is moving in furniture and equipment now. Tile and carpet is in. We still lack interior doors and a little wallpaper.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT - Total suspended solids (TSS) came in at 2.58 mg/L, well within the limit of 15 mg/L.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES – Finance Director, Peter Karstens, will not present a year-to-date summary of revenues and expenditures since this is the first day of the month. It takes a couple of days to compile the month-end results.

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Conducted 23 building inspections, 16 electrical inspections, 13 plumbing inspections, 1 mechanical inspection and issued 16 building permits.
- Poured sidewalks around the GSC Pavilion at Buford Park and installed LED lighting.
- Rebuilt 2 pumps at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Repaired 7 ruptured water mains.
- Made 3 water taps.
- Replaced 12 water meters.
- Unstopped 47 sewer mains.
- Repaired 6 sewer mains.
- Washed 80,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Flushed 36 dead-end water mains.
- Repaired mixer in Carter Street water tower.

- Inspected dams at Coleman Lake and Lake Sulphur Springs.
- Repaired high service water pump.
- Treated 121 million gallons of potable water.
- Sold 1,065 gallons of AvGas and 3,865 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Responded to 104 fire/rescue calls including 3 structure fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 80 fire hydrants.
- Patched 32 potholes.
- Made 12 extensive street repairs following utility repairs (including Atmos).
- Responded to 197 animal control calls and achieved an adoption rate of 46%.
- Responded to 20 accidents, wrote 620 tickets, made 82 arrests, and recorded 70 offenses.
- Made 14 arrests in the special crimes unit.
- Checked out 3,737 items from the library.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of February 2, 2016; the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting minutes of February 15, 2016; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of January 11, 2016. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2678, A REQUEST BY OWNER TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1630 ARBALA ROAD (1.2 ACRES) AND PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WILDCAT WAY BETWEEN ARBALA ROAD AND HOLIDAY DRIVE (89.6 ACRES) FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL

Community Development Director Shepard presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. The owner is requesting to rezone two properties along Wildcat Way between Holiday Drive and Arbala Road. The first property is a 1.2 acre lot at the corner of Wildcat Way and Arbala Road. The second property is an 89.6 acre tract along the south side of Wildcat Way. These properties were annexed into the city in 2006. At that time the city initiated a rezone to Single Family 6000. This request conforms to the Land Use Plan. The owner of the property has installed the water and sewer utilities for the properties in accordance with the Community Facility Policies Resolution No. 535. The Planning and Zoning conducted a public hearing and recommends approval. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the ordinance as presented on first reading. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1102 APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION FOR AN AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM AND DESIGNATING THE MAYOR AS THE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OFFICIAL

Police Chief Sanders presented the staff report. This resolution allows the Police Department to submit an application for possible grant funding by the Homeland Security Division for an automated license plate reader. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Glass moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1103 APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR BODY CAMERAS AND STORAGE AND DESIGNATING THE MAYOR AS THE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OFFICIAL

Police Chief Sanders presented the staff report. This resolution allows the Police Department to submit an application for possible grant funding by the Criminal Justice Division for body cameras and storage. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1104 APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR IN-CAR VIDEO CAMERA UPGRADE AND DESIGNATING THE MAYOR AS THE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OFFICIAL

Police Chief Sanders presented the staff report. This resolution allows the Police Department to submit an application for possible grant funding by the Criminal Justice Division for in-car video camera upgrade. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Walker moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1105 ADOPTING THE HOPKINS COUNTY MITIGATION ACTION PLAN FIVE-YEAR UPDATE

City Manager Maxwell presented the staff report. This item gives the jurisdictions of Como, Cumby, Sulphur Springs, and Tira a new five-year plan for Hazard Mitigation in Hopkins County. The approval of this mitigation plan makes us eligible to receive

grants. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Glass moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING NEEDS AND A PRESENTATION REGARDING POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING SOURCES

City Manager Maxwell explained that Mayor Pro Tem Glass had requested this item be placed on this agenda and then introduced Cloy Richards, Senior Consultant for Grantworks. Mr. Richards spoke about “Safe Rooms”, also known as tornado shelters, which could be funded by FEMA. The application deadline is July 26, 2016, and the Senior Citizens building would be a great place to locate a safe room. The safe room is constructed with criteria recognized by FEMA to afford near absolute protection and verified by a licensed design professional. There was a general discussion. The City Manager stated he would meet at a later date to further discuss the application with Mr. Richards. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Price moved to approve staff preparing the application and bringing it to the City Council for them to consider. Mayor Pro Tem Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM – PENDING LITIGATION

No action taken at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM – MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

No action taken at this time.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC FORUM

Charles Oxford stated his questions had been addressed during the City Council meeting.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.