

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

MARCH 2, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Mayor John A. Sellers 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:

Public link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8CxjG8pt3Cn8DDMgg0xr8g>

Present: Mayor John A. Sellers
Mayor Pro Tem Freddie Taylor
Councilman Doug Moore
Councilman Harold Nash Sr.
Councilman Oscar Aguilar
Councilman Gary Spraggins
Councilman Jay W. Julian

Absent: None

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Lesa Smith, Finance Director
Tory Niewiadomski, Community Development Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John A. Sellers called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Sellers led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag, and the invocation was led by Councilman Nash.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, the State of Texas will celebrate its 185th 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, John A. Sellers, Mayor of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2021 as

“TEXAS HISTORY MONTH”

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

WHEREAS, Judy Moore has many amazing accomplishments and we really do not want to lose her to San Antonio, Texas, but we know she will be incredible wherever she is located; and

WHEREAS, she introduced the Shopping Program where clients were able to come in and select foods that suited their family and individual needs; and

WHEREAS, she introduced produce into the program and included the PAN Program for seniors to allow them to get additional food aside from their normal distribution; and

WHEREAS, she partnered with TXU, FEC and Reliant to provide managed funds to the Community Chest to assist with clients bills without depleting the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, she created the “Reach Out” program so clients without the ability to travel to the foodbank could meet monthly to receive food close to their homes; and

WHEREAS, Judy was responsible for creating a database for clients so services could be maintained and updated with every visit to ensure fairness and consistency; and

WHEREAS, she partnered with NTFB and the local schools to facilitate a program for students to receive additional meals to take home if they were struggling with hunger; and

WHEREAS, she partnered with local schools, businesses, and organizations every year to facilitate multiple food drives and partnered with local churches to facilitate the Thanksgiving boxes with over a thousand given out last year; and

WHEREAS, she partnered with MET to provide employment for seniors looking to get back in the workforce and with MHMR to provide employment for clients; and

WHEREAS, she has provided free Notary services, partnered with local businesses to provide vouchers for clients in need of services, remodeled their facility by partnering with Lowe’s, worked yearly with United Way, started the yearly Health Fair, and made sure the community was aware of the program they offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. SELLERS, Mayor of the City of Sulphur Springs do hereby deem it an honor to recognize Judy Moore for all of her accomplishments.

MANAGER’S REPORT

COVID-19 RESPONSE – The number of active cases in Hopkins County increased 31% since our last meeting with a total of 157 active cases as of February 01, 2021. This follows 2 months of declining active cases. It does seem though that the state is not as

timely in deducting resolved cases as it is in reporting new cases. Every now and then the number will suddenly drop by 70 or 80 cases, so I am not very confident in the number of total active cases reported by the state. I am confident in the number of persons reported in the covid unit at the hospital which stands at 10 today as compared to 14 last month, another decline.

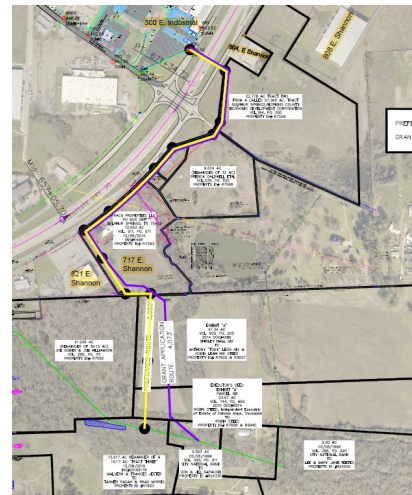
As a part of the City's response to Covid-19 the City suspended the practice of cutting off water service for non-payment. Some of the balances are growing quite high. The total arrearage is \$182,628 with 730 accounts (10.88% of all accounts) in arrears. Total active covid cases did not decline again this month, so I am not proposing any catch-up program, but I likely will in April.

GRAYS BUILDING –The framing and the plumbing top-out is finished. Electrical rough-in is nearly complete. HVAC is being installed now. The roofer will be onsite this week. Insulation will be installed next week. Brick and sheetrock won't be far behind.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING – Construction drawings are still being prepared by REES Associates. We have hired Tandem Consulting to oversee the construction just like the Grays Building.

WOODLAWN STREET –The Capital Construction Division has completed their work on the project. Texana Land and Asphalt will cement-stabilize the road base tomorrow and they will pave the street with asphalt early next week.

SAPUTO SEWER MAIN – Materials have been ordered, but weather has delayed the start of this project. This \$750,000 sewer project is funded entirely by a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. The new main will supplement an older undersized main. The path of the new main begins at Saputo and continues under the interstate. It then continues South for 3,500 feet before connecting to an existing trunk line. The new main has a 15-inch diameter. This grant is made possible because of a \$50 million plant upgrade at Saputo and their cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture. Without their cooperation this project would not have been possible.



COLLEGE STREET – This will be the next project after the Saputo Sewer Line Project. The concrete crushing operation that will provide much of the road base for College Street is underway. They have already crushed about 15,000 tons of concrete.

CLAIMS – We had one minor workers compensation claim in February, but we did not have any liability claims.

We did submit two insurance claims of our own in February. One was for damage caused by a motorist who struck one of our utility trucks. The other claim was the result of a dump truck rolling over while it was being towed. Both claims have been submitted to their respective insurance companies.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES – Finance Director Lesa Smith will present a report of revenues and expenditures.

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Fixed multiple water leaks in city buildings and replaced various public restroom fixtures as a result of the freeze.
- Prepared athletic fields for youth league season.
- Served 2,237 meal-a-day meals.
- Repaired ramp lights at the airport.
- Tested warning sirens and are making repairs.
- Performed preventative maintenance and repairs on numerous apparatuses at the water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant.
- Treated wastewater effluent to a daily average total suspended solids count of .49 mg/L.
- Repaired 15 water breaks.
- Replaced 7 water meters.
- Unstopped 23 sewer mains.
- Repaired 8 sewer mains.
- Washed 75,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Treated 140 million gallons of potable water.
- Responded to 105 animal control calls while achieving a 78% adoption rate.
- Made 2 felony arrests in the special crimes unit.
- Responded to 40 accidents, wrote 311 citations, recorded 39 offences, and made 34 arrests in the patrol division.
- Checked out 2,061 items at the library plus 684 eBooks.
- Conducted 19 building inspections, 8 electrical inspections, 12 plumbing inspections, 1 mechanical inspection and issued 8 building permits.
- Responded to 335 fire/rescue calls including 5 structure fires, 6 grass fires and 2 vehicle fires.
- Made 11 major street repairs following utility repairs.
- Repaired 262 potholes.
- Replaced 9 stop signs and 4 street signs.
- Cast salt and sand on city streets.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A MOTION ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES AND ORDER OF CANCELLATION OF THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR PLACES 1, 2, AND 3

City Secretary Roberts presented the staff report. In accordance with Sections 2.052(a) and 2.053(a) of the Texas Election Code the City Council general election for Places 1, 2, and 3 will not need to be conducted. The candidates, Jay W. Julian, Harold Nash Sr., and Oscar Aguilar are unopposed. There was a brief discussion. No calls were received. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the Certificate of Unopposed Candidates and the Order of Cancellation as presented. Councilman Aguilar seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A MOTION ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATE OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE AND ORDER OF CANCELLATION OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PLACE 5

City Secretary Roberts presented the staff report. In accordance with Sections 2.052(a) and 2.053(a) of the Texas Election Code the City Council special election for Place 5 will not need to be conducted. The candidate, Gary Spraggins is unopposed. There was a brief discussion. No calls were received. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to approve the Certificate of Unopposed Candidate and the Order of Cancellation as presented. Councilman Spraggins seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SIP)

Community Development Director Niewiadomski presented the staff report. Staff placed bid notices in the News Telegram. Certified emails were also sent to inform prospective bidders. Bids were opened February 23, 2021. The work consists of furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment necessary for full depth milling and inlay, hot mix asphaltic concrete (HMAC), and cement treatment of the sub grade (CTS) including mixing, adding cement, watering, compaction, final grading, and coating. There were four bids received and they are as follows:

Bidder	Total Bid Price
Texana Land & Asphalt	\$1,137,776.90
RK Hall	\$1,517,648.00
Richard Drake	\$1,627,285.00
Area Wide Paving	\$1,144,454.00

Upon mutual agreement between the City and the Bidder, the contract may be extended for up to one year. Quantities may vary between year 1 and 2 of contract. There was a brief discussion. No calls were received. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Moore moved to approve the bids and award the contract to Texana Land & Asphalt. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES AT THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS AT DESIGNATED PARKS

Finance Director Smith presented the staff report. The last 10 years the City has contracted with various individuals or businesses to provide concession services to patrons at the four concession stands located in City parks. Our most recent contract ended December 2020. The City published notices in the newspaper and on the website requesting concession service proposals. We received one proposal from The Little Egg. The new contract will be for one term through December 31, 2021 with an option to extend the contract for three additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement between the City Manager and Concessionaire. The Little Egg meets all the RFP requirements and has provided quality service to the City since 2018. There was a brief discussion. No calls were received. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Spraggins moved to accept the bid and award the contract to The Little Egg. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Sellers commended city staff and the city manager for their service and response during the winter snowstorm event. He stated we were very fortunate in Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County.

Councilman Nash commended the Police Department for their rescue services of a family.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.