

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

JUNE 1, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Mayor John A. Sellers called the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. An executive session was held at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with Texas Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.087, Economic Development, Project Hold Fast and Project Flourish.

The following council members and staff were present:

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

Absent: None

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Lesa Smith, Finance Director – 7P
Gordon Frazier, Director of Human Resources – 7P
Jason Ames, SSPD Code Enforcement Officer – 7P
Natalie Darrow, SSPD Records Clerk

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

Mayor John A. Sellers reconvened the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council at 7:01 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

City Secretary Gale Roberts administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Julian, Councilman Nash, Councilman Aguilar, and Councilman Spraggins.

Mayor Sellers recognized June 1, 2021, as the beginning of Mayor Pro Tem Taylor's 18th year, making him the longest sitting councilman in the history of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Councilman Nash announced the passing of a previous City Councilman and Mayor, Valanderous Bell, who served the City for nine (9) years. His funeral services are set for 1 p.m. June 5th at the League Street Church of Christ.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON SELECTION OF MAYOR

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor moved to nominate John A. Sellers as mayor. Councilman Spraggins seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

Councilman Spraggins noted that Mayor Sellers is now going to hold the record for longest serving mayor with 6 terms. Raymond Johnson had previously served 5 terms.

Mayor Sellers, at this point, decided to say a few words. Mayor Sellers recognized that the last year and half was a difficult period due to COVID19. He wanted to acknowledge the support and help of the entire council, City Secretary Roberts, and City Manager Maxwell. He grew up in Sulphur Springs and moved to Dallas for a while but has been back for twenty-seven (27) years, 10 of which he has served on the council. He also stated that it was an honor and privilege to serve as Mayor of the City of Sulphur Springs.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Councilman Nash moved to nominate Councilman Doug Moore as Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

COVID-19 RESPONSE – The number of active cases in Hopkins County increased 41% since our last meeting with 38 active cases as of May 28th. There are 3 patients in the covid unit at the hospital.

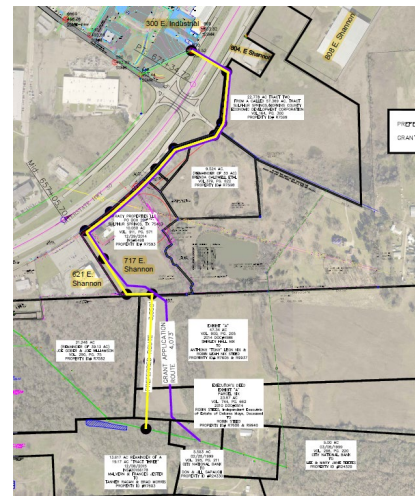
AIRPORT - Hosted a Classic Jet Aircraft Association (CJAA) event wherein participants purchased 11,000 gallons of JetA fuel, 76 room nights at local hotels and hundreds of meals at local restaurants.



GRAYS BUILDING –The building is nearly completed. The generator will be installed next along with various plumbing fixtures and appliances. The big remaining issue is the 3 large roll-up doors. The delivery date is a moving target. At this point I have no reason to believe that the doors have even been manufactured. The building will be available for Juneteenth, but the roll-up doors may not be in.

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.

SAPUTO SEWER MAIN – Construction is about 50% complete. 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.



STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Staff has finalized the list of this year’s streets to be paved via the Street Improvement Program (SIP).

2021 SIP		
Street	Segment	Length
Austin	Davis to Brinker	565
Beckham	Oak to Elm	3,379
Duckworth	Mockingbird to Broadway	1,250
Gena	Cul de Sac to end	1,130
League	Bellview to Pampa	3,131
Lee	Davis to Broadway	1,901
N. Davis	Houston to Bonner	675
Patton	College to Weaver	950
Phyllis Ct.	College to Cul de Sac	950
Texas	Tate to Lee	2,772
Texas	Lee to Industrial	1,188
Woodbridge Crossing	Various	500
Total Linear Feet		19,391
Total Miles		3.67
Total Cost		\$1,152,098
Street Maintenance Fee Revenue		\$502,000

Funding from street maintenance budget.

COLLEGE STREET – This will be the next reconstruction project after the Saputo Sewer Line Project.

CLAIMS – We did not have any workers compensation claims or liability claims in May.

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

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Made 3 extensive street repairs following utility repairs.
- Patched 397 potholes.
- Cleaned out storm drains 6 times.
- Installed no parking signs on Tomlinson Street.
- Removed 7 trees from city streets following storms.
- Made various curb & gutter repairs in preparation of this year's Street Improvement Program (SIP).
- Washed 75,000 feet of sewer mains and unstopped 37 sewer mains.
- Repaired 4 ruptured water mains.
- Flushed 36 dead-end water mains.
- Opened Lake Sulphur Springs' flood gates due to recent rain.
- Treated 140 million gallons of potable water.
- Performed preventative maintenance on various apparatuses at the water and wastewater treatment plants.
- Treated wastewater to a daily average total suspended solids reading of .32 mg/L.
- Sent 341 tons of sludge to the landfill and 198 tons of sludge to the composting facility.
- Checked out 2,338 items from the library and an additional 764 eBooks.
- Responded to 227 fire/rescue calls including 2 structure fires and 3 vehicle fires.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 78 fire hydrants.
- Performed 4 fire inspections and reviewed 40 pre-fire plans.
- Sold 2,934 gallons of AvGas and 24,760 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Conducted 27 building inspections, 18 electrical inspections, 5 plumbing inspections, 4 mechanical inspections and issued 22 building permits.
- Started operating the interactive fountains.
- Began the street sweeping cycle.
- Began replacing dead shrubbery because of the freeze.
- Responded to 167 animal control calls while achieving a 78% adoption rate.
- Responded to 2,480 police calls, made 46 arrests, wrote 580 citations, recorded 50 offences, and worked 39 accidents in the patrol division.
- Made 2 felony arrests in the Special Crimes Unit.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Consider for approval the regular City Council meeting minutes of May 4, 2021; the Special City Council meeting minutes of May 11 and the Retreat meeting minutes of May 20, 2021; the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of April 13, 2021; and the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of March 22, 2021. There was no one to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2780 A REZONING REQUEST BY OWNERS LARRY & LINDA EVANS FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1340 SOUTH HILLCREST FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL.

The applicant is proposing to rezone the property to Heavy Commercial to accommodate existing uses and future uses along the Highway 19 corridor and consist of two tracts of land. The property is surrounded by a mix of zoning designations, from Light Commercial to the north, east and south, pending heavy and light commercial to the west. Given the context of the area, heavy commercial is an appropriate use. It also fits in with the land use plan of commercial along Highway 19. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2781, A REZONING REQUEST BY OWNER CHARLES SICKLES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1079 ROCKDALE AND 1085 ROCKDALE FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL.

The applicant currently operates body shop facilities on the properties and has split zoning across property lines on the lots. In order to clean up the zoning, the applicant desires to have the property zoned consistent with the body shop use which requires heavy commercial zoning which is what the property frontage is zoned. The property is surrounded by a mix of zoning designations, from Heavy Commercial to the west and south and Single Family to the north and east. Given the context of the area, Heavy Commercial is an appropriate use. It also fits in with the land use plan of commercial along I-30 and Rockdale Road in this section. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Aguilar seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1242 APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR A TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2021 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE (TA) PROJECT GRANT

City Manager Maxwell presented the staff report. In mid-January, TxDOT issued a call for projects for Transportation Alternative Projects. The purpose of the program is to improve safety, access, or mobility for people of all ages and abilities including ADA enhancements. In response, staff prepared a preliminary application (Step 1) in March of this year to install approximately 1,750 feet of 12' Shared Use Pathway, crosswalks, and related appurtenances that connects Crosstown Trails from Connally Street near Rogers and follow the creek channel south past Spring Street and terminates east at Davis Street. The City was recently notified to proceed to the detailed application (Step 2) process and applications are due June 14th. If awarded by TxDOT, this would put the project on TxDOT's Conditional Project List, provided funding for the program continues for FY 2023-2024. In order to submit the application, City Council is required to adopt a resolution that will commit the City enter into an agreement with TxDOT if the project is selected for funding. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Julian moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Nash seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A PROPOSAL BY TOOLE DESIGN GROUP TO PROVIDE DESIGN SERVICES FOR AN AREA LOCATED WEST OF DOWNTOWN, WITH ITS ORGANIZING FEATURE BEING A LINEAR OPEN SPACE WITH THE TOWN BRANCH AND LAKE/DRAINAGE RETENTION BASIN BEING KEY FEATURES.

City Manager Marc Maxwell presented the staff report. A linear park along North Town Branch was first contemplated in 2010 during the design phase of Celebration Plaza. Since then, the construction of downtown was completed, some excavation of a drainage basin has been accomplished and investors have begun purchasing property in the area in anticipation of future revitalization efforts. It is time to bring Ian Lockwood and his team back to take a fresh look at the area and lead the community through a design process that would maximize value and quality of life for our residents. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Spraggins moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Julian seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS.

Mayor Sellers read the proposed list of names for the board appointments as a matter of record.

2021-2022 BOARD AND COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DOUG MOORE

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

TWYLA GILL
KEVIN MOHL
KYLE ROBINSON

ALTERNATES: JANET MARTIN
JAMES LITZLER

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

DR. CHARLES JONES
DAVID BAUCOM

SULPHUR RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

BOB RUSSELL

LIBRARY BOARD

CAROL GEE
MICHELLE MCGILL IVERY

BOARD OF TOURISM AND PROMOTION

DON FAUSETT
MEREDITH CADDELL
ADAM TEER

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

BOBBY HARRIS
JOHN COOPER
JEFF REDDING

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

CHUCK SICKLES

TOMMY HARRISON

ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

JOHN SELLERS
GARY SPRAGGINS
HAROLD NASH SR.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION BOARD

MIKE ELLIOTT
TYLER LAW

REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE

JEFF FISHER
JAY W. JULIAN
FREDDIE TAYLOR
JOHN SELLERS
MARC MAXWELL

There was no one to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve the appointments as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION, IF ANY, REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to authorize the city manager to enter into an agreement with Project Flourish. Councilman Spraggins seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC FORUM

None.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.