

REGULAR MEETING
JULY 24, 2012

Mayor Jeff Bearden called the Regular Meeting of the City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, and a quorum was declared present, with Commissioner Travis Taylor absent.

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow and Phil McCuiston

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Attorney Trish Byars, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Public Works Director Bob Cochran, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, City Secretary Linda Byers, EMS Coordinator Adam Scott and Water Distribution Supervisor David Templeton..

Mayor Bearden led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags, followed by the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bearden opened the meeting to Public Comment from those who had submitted Requests to Speak during Public Comment Forms.

Beth Railsback, representing the Carnegie Library Board Members spoke requesting an additional \$7,384 in funding for the upcoming budget year. She noted that their insurance had been paid with a grant, which was no longer available, they will have increased heating and cooling costs with the new building, and they have to pay for accounting services. They have not requested an increase since FY2007.

Mayor Bearden closed public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dennis moved the following items under the Consent Agenda are approved:

- A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, and minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday, June 25, 2012.
- B. A Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for Police Department for seventeen (17) individual officer video cameras in the amount of \$13,495.11.
- C. A Walmart Community Grant for the Police Department in the amount of \$1200 for the purchase of digital cameras to be used by the detective division.
- D. A Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for radio equipment and accessories for Police Department for Law Enforcement Interoperable Communications.
- E. Purchase of radio equipment and accessories in the amount of \$107,732.75 to be reimbursed through a Homeland Security Firefighter Grant to support interoperability.

Digital Recording on file

- F. Financial Investment Report for the month of June, 2012 with interest earned totaling \$5,059.17 and vouchers from June 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012 in the amount of \$1,333,701.21.

Commissioner McCuiston seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

REPORT – TOURISM COMMITTEE

Chamber of Commerce Director Carrie Hawkins reported on behalf of the Tourism Committee that the Hotel Occupancy Tax Budget reflected estimated income from sales tax of \$243,000. Following payments to the Chamber of Commerce and the City, net income would be \$168,700.

Proposed Expenditures would be:

- Funded Activities \$90,000
- Billboards \$34,700
- Marketing Campaign \$ 5,000
- Hospitality Events \$ 6,000
- Sports Committee Events \$ 3,000
- Unscheduled Activities \$30,000

Ms. Hawkins also reported locations and feedback for the billboards, and that Vernon has been listed as #2 statewide for hosting playoff games.

TOURISM BUDGET

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve the tourism budget.

Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS TRAUMA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

EMS Coordinator Adam Scott explained that the City has had a similar agreement with the Department of State Health Services for three years, but they are changing to regional authority. It is the same agreement, but with a different entity. It states that we will respond, if available, one ambulance with two personnel in the event of a major disaster, and will be reimbursed for our costs through the Regional Advisory Council.

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council for emergency ambulance deployment.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

TCEO GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL

City Manager Grant explained that American Electric Power is requesting placement of a groundwater monitoring well to be placed on our property near the main pump station on

Digital Recording on file

Strayhan Street. American Electric Power is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to place groundwater monitoring wells to monitor hydrocarbons released from the former Vernon Power Plant. The City can determine placement. Mr. Grant recommends approval subject to final location approval by staff.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve TCEQ groundwater monitoring well placement subject to location review by staff.

Commissioner McCuiston seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

WICHITA - WILBARGER 9-1-1 DISTRICT BUDGET

Fire Chief Kent Smead explained that the 9-1-1 District is required to submit their draft budget to entities for comment before it is adopted by the District next month.

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to approve the Wichita Wilbarger 9-1-1 Draft Budget.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

PURCHASE REGIONAL MOBILE GENERATOR

City Manager Grant explained that this Regional Emergency Generator will be purchased with a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$70,205.

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve the purchase of the Regional Emergency Generator.

Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

MAIN STREET FACADE IMPROVEMENT MATCHING GRANT

Main Street Director Dan Kelleher that the State Design Office had submitted a series of recommendations for Phase 2 renovation work on the Brantley Wright Insurance building at 1630 Main Street. Recommendations were for window repair and tinting, check for structural flaws, repair and repaint the wall and possibly replace the mural.

The Main Street Design Committee and the Vintage Vernon Foundation all agreed to move forward with the Phase 2 recommendations, with a dollar for dollar match by Brantley Wright Insurance. Funding is capped at \$20,000, with The Vintage Vernon Foundation and the City each providing a maximum of \$10,000. Mr. Kelleher recommends approval, subject to the conditions and terms of the staff report.

Following discussion of the project and the replacement of the existing mural, Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to approve funding matching grant.

Digital Recording on file

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

BUDGET WORK SESSION & SCHEDULING

City Manager Grant explained that the year ahead will be a challenging year. The proposed budget includes a 2% increase in property taxes and a 4% increase in water & sewer rates.

The Step & Grade plan is continued along with a 3% salary increase for Division Directors, but there are salary issues to consider. Most capital expenditures have been deleted.

Commissioners requested a chance to look more closely at the requests before the August 7 meeting. Mayor Bearden requested that the Commission meet with the Division Directors at the August 7 work session to ask questions and look at the capital requests. The budget as presented will give the commission something to work from.

There was discussion on budget planning and tax rate hearings.

RESOLUTION NO. 939 **APPROVING FINANCING TERMS**

City Manager Grant explained that the City purchased items and have paid for them, but they are to be financed through lease purchase. The low bid was for a rate of 2.12% through BB&T Financial Services. This resolution sets out those terms.

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to approve Resolution No. 939.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:24 p.m. under Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney regarding Pending Litigation.

Commissioner Dennis seconded that motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to resume regular session at 8:44 p.m.

Commissioner Dennis seconded that motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to approve actions by the attorney in pending litigation.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

ADJOURN

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary