

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 23, 2013**

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

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow, Travis Taylor and Phil McCuiston.

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Attorney Trish C. Byars, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Public Works Director Bob Cochran, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher and City Secretary Linda Byers.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, a Special City Commission Meeting held on Monday, April 1, 2013, and minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2013.
- B. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1612 – Sale of tax properties at 927 Bismarck St. to Jamie Goins and 2605 Luna St. to Beverly Reece.
- C. Financial Investment Report for the month of March, 2013 with interest earned totaling \$3,149.33 and vouchers from March 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013 in the amount of \$859,859.80.

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

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY, 2013 AS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH IN  
THE CITY OF VERNON**

Mayor Bearden read a proclamation proclaiming May, 2013 as National Preservation Month and encouraging citizens to join others across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance, and ensuring that our nation's architectural treasures will be protected for future generations.

**AWARD PRESENTATIONS RELATED TO NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH**

Mayor Bearden and Jeanmarie Baer, Managing Partner of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott presented award checks for the winners of the Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott Architectural Appreciation Essay Contest:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Kaley West	\$150.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Brady Aderholt	\$100.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Emily Castleberry	\$ 50.00

Mayor Bearden and Jimmy Dennis of Tyson Foods presented award checks for the winners of the Perdue, Tyson Foods of Vernon Architectural Appreciation Drawing Contest:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	James Milner	\$150.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	David Taing	\$100.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Terrin Owens	\$ 50.00

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE / TOURISM REPORT**

Jim Gryseels, Chamber President, reported that the Chamber has several new members; attended a state tourism workshop; won five ADDY awards for their marketing campaign; and is planning to participate in the upcoming strategic planning process. A "Meet & Greet" with visiting workers is planned for the morning of April 29 with more than 220 visiting workers expected to be in attendance. These visiting workers have substantially increased the revenue from Hotel/Motel Tax and sales tax.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT**

Jonathan Voekel, BDC Board Member, informed the Commission of two new business requests, and that the Leadership Vernon 2013 Class just graduated and a new class is planned for 2014. The Board is working on policy and procedures and using the City policies as a roadmap. Progress is being made with the first draft available for the Board.

**MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTION REPORT**

Jonathan Whitsitt, newly appointed Municipal Prosecutor, informed the Commission that the first hearing date was today. The Court heard Truancy cases and received four guilty pleas. There are numerous hearing dates scheduled.

**SET SPECIAL MEETING TO CANVASS ELECTION**

Following a short discussion, Commissioner Taylor made the motion to hold a Special Meeting on Friday, May 17 at noon to canvass the May 11, 2013 Election results.

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

**WITHDRAWAL OF HOME GRANT APPLICATION**

City Manager Grant explained that because of HUD policy changes disallowing grant administration by the same company which made the application, he recommends that the application approved at the December, 2012 Regular Meeting be withdrawn and that the City reapply with the City making application for ourselves, and going through the procurement process for grant consulting services. Mr. Grant pointed out that administering this federal grant would be very complex and specialized and a qualified consultant would be needed to administer the grant.

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to approve withdrawal of the HOME Grant application with plans to resubmit due to HUD policy changes.

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

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BIGGS & MATTHEWS**

Public Works Director Bob Cochran explained that the wastewater treatment plant has been struggling to control the levels of TSS (Total Suspended Solids) and BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) being discharged into the Pease River. Mr. Kerry Maroney, P.E. and owner of Biggs & Matthews, Inc. has visited the plant and is confident that he will be able to assist the City in finding a reasonable solution to the reoccurring problem before it becomes a significant compliance issue with the TCEQ Enforcement Division.

The cost for the Biggs & Matthews Service Agreement No. 1 will be \$9,775.00, which funds are currently budgeted and available.

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Biggs and Matthews and a Letter of Agreement No. 1 for limited work at the wastewater treatment plant.

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

**PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT CONTROLLERS AT NITRATE PLANT**

Public Works Director Bob Cochran requested approval of an upgrade to the nitrate plant's master process controller and control panel to include the installation of a new Quartech Color/Touch Keypad. The existing master controller and control panel is obsolete and factory parts are no longer available for repairs.

The cost of the upgrade will be \$16,300.00, for which funds are available in the Vernon 2009 GST Bond.

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to approve the purchase of replacement controllers for the Ion Exchange Plant from 2009 Tank Construction Bond Proceeds.

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

**SET SPECIAL MEETING FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING**

Mayor Bearden outlined the plan for the City, County, BDC, Chamber and other entities to join together to blend the individual goal setting and strategic plans together along with ideas of the community into a community initiative. Monica Wilkinson, Community Development Director, has agreed to facilitate this effort.

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve setting a Special Meeting for Community Planning on May 7, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Empire Room of Wilbarger Auditorium

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

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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

  
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Jeff Bearden  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Linda Byers  
City Secretary