

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 30, 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, with Commissioner Taylor absent.

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow and Pat Bryant.

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Prosecutor Jonathan Whittsett, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, EMS Director Kade Long and City Secretary Linda Byers.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Billy Blount, The new President of the Herring National Bank was there to introduce himself to the Commission.

Curtis Chism complained about the large number of dogs in his neighborhood, including the barking and the smell. He requested an ordinance limiting the number of dogs that a single resident could have.

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, June 25, 2013, minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 24, 2013.
- B. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1615 – Updating Adoption of the Electrical Codes to reflect State Law.
- C. Financial Investment Report for the month of June, 2013 with interest earned totaling \$2,929.38 and vouchers from June 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013 in the amount of \$405,912.02 and Payroll & Benefits costs totaling \$351,651.12.

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

TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

Chamber of Commerce President Carrie Hawkins informed the Commission that during the previous months she attended the Texas Travel Fair and mailed literature to many travel centers. Funding Hearings for Hotel/Motel Funds were held in June and approved \$90,000 in funding for events within guidelines of the law. Revenue estimates were above expectations, and they expect a \$80,000 excess by year end. She also distributed the Advertisement in Travel Host West Texas Magazine.

TOURISM COMMITTEE BUDGET

Chamber of Commerce President Carrie Hawkins presented the Hotel Occupancy Tax Budget with total income of \$168,700. Expenditures equaled Revenue with \$30,000 reserved for unscheduled activities.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve the Tourism Committee Budget.

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

BUDGET PRESENTATION **FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**

City Manager Grant noted the following highlights of the presented balanced budget:

- Uses the same tax rate as last year which is lower than the effective tax rate.
- No cost of living increase for employees.
- Cutting of numerous capital requests:
 - Streets – reduced seal coat costs by \$125,000
 - Parks – Allingham Park improvements for a walking path and fall material reduced by \$42,000
 - Fire – Cut pickup replacement and cabinet refinish.
 - Community Development – Substandard structure demolition cut by \$5,000
 - Police – Cut all vehicle requests and camera purchases reduced by \$5,000.
 - Court – Prisoner support reduced by \$5,000 and Court tax paid reduced by \$26,000.
 - Cemetery – Moved Cemetery Improvement expense to Perpetual Care (Street and Curbs \$40,000).
- Replacement of one ambulance was included along with lease purchase financing.
- Proposed a \$7 increase in water rates and a \$1 increase in Wastewater rates plus an increase in industrial rates to meet the new EPA Phosphorus Discharge rule.
- New EPA and TCEQ mandates that include EPA Testing (\$38,000), Nitrate Reduction (\$63,000), new lead rules (\$25,000), Phosphorus discharge (\$65,000), TCEQ testing increases (\$15,000), TCEQ Rules (\$13,000) totaling \$419,000 increase due to state and federal mandates.
- Funds included to finance drilling and new water acquisitions.

- Funds to rehab the Wastewater Plant (\$330,000) were cut. Multi-year financing will be needed to accomplish the necessary rehab.

Commissioner Bryant questioned the sale of wastewater (plans are in the works and a possible contract should be submitted for approval soon). Commissioner Dennis asked about delay in replacement of staff. City Manager Grant explained that the City works with such a short staff, that it is hard not to replace staff when we lose an employee, but we have delayed replacement as long as possible.

REVISED BUDGET & TAX RATE ADOPTION SCHEDULE

Following discussion of the tax rate adoption schedule, Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve the planning calendar and set a meeting for August 6 to discuss the proposed tax rate and procedures, and a preliminary Budget Work Session on August 6 at 5:00 pm.

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

COMMUNITY PLANNING & SCHEDULE WRAP UP MEETING

Community Development Director Wilkinson explained that she has put the data from the community planning efforts into a spreadsheet and is working to pull it together into a planning report. A wrap-up meeting to present this data to the public and take input on the results is the next step.

Mayor Bearden noted that these issues would inform the budget process. Following discussion, there was a consensus of a possible meeting the week of August 12.

AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL NORTH TEXAS STATE HOSPITAL

Mayor Bearden abstained from discussion due to a conflict of interest, and named Commissioner Russell Brownlow as acting Mayor Pro-tem in the absence of Commissioner Taylor.

City Manager Grant noted that this is the third renewal of this contract for ambulance service with the North Texas State Hospital.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve renewal of the ambulance service contract with North Texas State Hospital.

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

WICHITA-WILBARGER 9-1-1 DRAFT BUDGET

Fire Chief Smead, who is on the Wichita-Wilbarger 9-1-1 Board, explained that the FCC has implemented rules that all Public Safety Answering Points must accept text messages on a 9-1-1 call. Funds are included for updating all systems. Total operational budget is \$798,132.15.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve the budget for the Wichita-Wilbarger 9-1-1 District.

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

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH KEENE, TEXAS

Police Chief Wilson explained that this Memorandum of Understanding and Interlocal Agreement would allow individual officers to run checks on subjects and vehicles from laptop computers that are to be installed in the patrol vehicles without the City having to purchase the licenses for each computer. The Vernon Police Department will "piggy back" off the license of the Keene Police Department to access the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, The Texas Crime Information Center, The Texas Department of Transportation Motor Vehicles Division, the National Crime Information Center and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

Cost will be \$150 per computer (\$1500 total) to be paid out of the asset seizure fund this year, and the Police Department budget in future years.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve the Inter-local Agreement with Keene, Texas regarding licensing for law enforcement checks for patrol computers.

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

MAIN STREET PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT REQUEST
MEREDITH WRIGHT

Main Street Director Kelleher explained that the Main Street Advisory Board recommendation approval of a Physical Improvement Deferred Matching Loan Grant to Meredith Wright in an amount not to exceed \$570, to defray the cost of a wrought iron bench. This request would be funded by funds raised at the Celebrity Waiter Dinner. The Benches are built by a local blacksmith.

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve the Main Street Physical Improvement Grant request by Meredith Wright for a downtown bench.

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

MAIN STREET PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT REQUEST
CHRISTMAS ON THE WESTERN TRAIL

Main Street Director Kelleher explained that the Main Street Advisory Board recommendation approval of a Physical Improvement Deferred Matching Loan Grant to Bubba Edwards representing the Christmas on the Western Trail Parade Committee in an amount not to exceed \$1,100 to defray the cost of a covered wagon including new wheels, a cover & frame and a versatile hitch. This request would be funded by funds raised at the Celebrity Waiter Dinner.

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve the Main Street Physical Improvement Grant request by the Christmas on the Western Trail Committee for a covered wagon display.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. under Government Code Section 551.072 – Deliberation Concerning Real Property.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to resume regular session at 8:59 p.m.

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

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to authorize City Manager Grant to continue negotiations concerning real property.

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

CONTRACT FOR DONATED PROPERTY

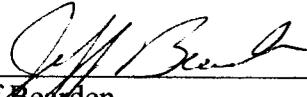
Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve the contract of donated property – Abstract 726, Blk 12, Sec 62, H&TC for 10.2 acre farming lease of Hughes Property in the 2400 Block of High School Drive to Byars Partnership.

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary