

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 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 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, Municipal Judge Lori Adams, EMS Director Kade Long, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Shivers addressed the Commission concerning the water shortage and water leaks. City Manager Grant explained the delay in repairing the large water line leaks due to contractor scheduling and the priority scheduling of crews to repair leaks throughout town.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, minutes of a Special Meeting held on Tuesday October 1, 2013, and minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday, September 23, 2013.
- B. Second Reading of Ordinance NO. 1620 establishing guidelines for regulating alcohol use in "BYOB" establishments.
- C. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1621 setting ambulance rates.
- D. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1623 approving Atmos Rate Review Mechanism.
- E. Financial Investment Report for the month of September, 2013 with interest earned totaling \$3,028.68 and vouchers from September 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013 in the amount of \$1,190,671.52 and Payroll & Benefits costs totaling \$502,582.19.

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOURISM REPORT

There was no one present to make a report.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

Bobby Crews, BDC President, reported that Temple Metals has bought the Osborne's Warehouse. The Board approved the Small Business Assistance Program. Citizen's at the Community Planning Meetings named small business assistance as a priority. BDC Board Member Jim Gunn explained the increased emphasis on local business assistance. BDC Attorney Chris Lehman presented a Powerpoint presentation about Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Performance Agreements which would require security for financial incentives before any advance of funds. This will be the primary strategy of the BDC for the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 953

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS, THAT ESTABLISHES PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF CITY OF VERNON BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND PROVIDING FOR RECORDING AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve Resolution No. 953 establishing guidelines for Board and Committee appointments.

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

REQUEST TO WAIVE CHARGES FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUEST

Commissioner Bryant requested that Public Information Requests made by the local media in the future should be for free.

Following discussion of the current policy, Commissioner Bryant made the motion to waive charges for the local newspaper (Vernon Daily Record) and the local radio station (KVWC) for public information requests.

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

ACCEPT PROPERTY AT 1608 EASTLAND ST.

Community Development Director Wilkinson explained that the property at 1608 Eastland St. has been abandoned by the owner. The department has received numerous and continuous complaints of noise, smell, bonfires, high grass and weeds, junk and debris concerning people who have moved into the abandoned house without any utilities. The owner wants to deed the property to the City. Back taxes and deed preparation would be approximately \$300.00.

This would allow the City to clean up the property and sell it to recoup those costs. It could then be put back on the tax roll. If the City takes no action, the owner would not pay future taxes and would eventually end in a tax suit without the City able to recoup costs of cleaning up the property. There are health issues in the situation right now.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve acceptance of the property at 1608 Eastland Street.

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

Commissioner Bryant made the motion to vote to put items on the next agenda. Commissioner Bryant agreed to talk to Mitch about future agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. under Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to resume regular session at 7:51 p.m.

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

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve taking action to endorse legal action on water.

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary