

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 16, 2014**

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

Present: Mayor Joe Rogers

Commissioners: Danny McMahan, Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor, and Pat Bryant.

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Prosecutor Jonathan Whitsitt, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Molly Baldwin is concerned about retiree costs and other City expenses and would like for the City to revisit annuity cuts.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Approve Minutes: Attached are copies of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014, a Special Meeting held on Thursday, December 4, 2014 and Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday, November 24, 2014.
- B. Approve Purchase of Chemical Detection Equipment totaling \$14,995 to be paid with State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant.
- C. Approve Financial Investment Report, Vouchers, and Payroll & Benefit Expense. November 1, 2014 – November 30, 2014.

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

**PROPOSED MEETING & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve the proposed meeting and holiday schedule for 2015.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1653**

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO AEP TEXAS NORTH COMPANY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS (“AEP”), A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE ELECTRIC LINES AND APPURTENANCES AND APPLIANCES FOR CONDUCTING ELECTRIC ENERGY IN, OVER, UNDER AND THROUGH THE STREETS, AVENUES, ALLEYS, EASEMENTS, AND PUBLIC GROUNDS OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS (“CITY”).**

City Manager Grant explained that AEP has agreed to everything we asked for, and this Franchise Agreement is a fifteen-year renewal. Notification and plans are required before major projects, and there is wording to protect homeowners from tree trimming, ingress and egress.

Commissioner McMahan made the motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance #1653 adopting Franchise Fee Agreement with American Electric Power.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 980**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF VERNON, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY’S EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY’S PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

City Manager Grant explained that this is our yearly application for block Grant funds through Nortex. If awarded they will be used for water line and/or street improvement. This is a competitive process for low income/acceptable projects. Lexington Street water lines and Southeast Vernon paving are acceptable projects. If awarded, staff will need direction on which project to proceed with.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve Resolution #980 authorizing submission of TCDB Grant Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1654**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 22 FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION; RENAMING AND AMENDING ARTICLE III EMERGENCY RESPONSE & RESCUE SERVICES CHARGES; AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTION OF FEES AND COST RECOVERY FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESCUE SERVICES CHARGES WITHIN THE RESPONSE AREA OF THE VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT/WILBARGER COUNTY; PROVIDING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR RECORDING AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

City Manager Grant explained that this would be an additional source of revenue.

Fire Chief Smead noted that residents insurance would be billed, but if insurance did not pay, no further action would be taken to collect from residents. Out of County residents would be billed. An ordinance is already in effect for Haz-Mat incidents, and this ordinance would expand billing to auto accidents and auto fires.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve Ordinance #1654 authorizing the collection of fees and cost recovery for certain emergency response and rescue services charges.

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

**FACADE IMPROVEMENT MATCHING GRANT**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

**PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT & BEAUTIFICATION GRANT**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

**WATER TRANSMISSION LINE REPAIR COSTS**

City Manager Grant explained that City Purchasing Policy requires City Commission approval for purchases over \$5,000. Funds totaling \$44,000 are budgeted, and the major repairs to the main transmission line are scheduled for January 27 – 29, 2015 and pipe is on hand to make these repairs but will have to be replaced. Minor leaks will be made with in-house labor, but repair clamps will cost \$2500 - \$3000 each.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve joint replacement and other repairs to the water transmission line in excess of \$7500.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 1655**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS, APPROVING THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY AT 1101 STRAHAN STREET, APPROVING THE SALES PRICE, AND REQUIRING THAT DELIVERY OF THE PROPERTY BE EXECUTED TO THE PERSON NAMED BELOW**

Community Development Director Wilkinson explained that this is another tax property – the old Embers Kiddy College Day Care. Only the maintenance fees incurred since the property has been in trust is recoverable from the sale.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve Ordinance #1655 – sale of property at 1101 Strahan Street to Shelby Vaughn for \$700.

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

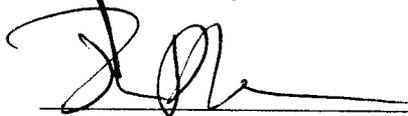
**REAPPOINT ASSOCIATE MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

City Manager Grant asked that this be postponed until a later meeting..

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

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

  
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Joe Rogers  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Linda Byers  
City Secretary