

REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2008

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

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow, Tra Cardwell 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, Special Services Director Monica Wilkinson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Code Enforcement Office David Pilcher, Municipal Judge Delores Flores, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, for approval.
- B. Vouchers – September 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008 for approval.
- C. Second and final reading on Ordinance No. 1513 to approve a negotiated resolution between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee and Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division, for approval.
- D. Reappoint Mrs. Virginia Beam to the Roy Orbison Pavilion Scheduling Board for a three year term which will expire November 30, 2011.
- E. Approve a request from the Public Works Director to demolish the burned out bathhouse and fill in the old municipal swimming pool.
- F. Approve a request from the Public Works Director for the purchase of five 12-inch Circulation valves for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Anaerobic Digester.

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

TRAVEL POLICY

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve the new City of Vernon Travel Policy.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1514

Due to the changing economy, City Manager Grant recommended tabling Ordinance No. 1514 which would have approved participation in Cities Aggregate Power Project (CAPP) and enter into a 24-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to table Ordinance No. 1514 for one month.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 868

Consider a resolution authorizing the Cities Aggregation Power Project (CAPP) to negotiate an electric supply agreement for deliveries of electricity and necessary related services effective January 1, 2009 and extending to December 31, 2013.

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve Resolution No. 868.

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

SKATE PARK

Meg Heatly with the Kiwanis Club made a presentation on the proposed Skate Park and asked that it be located at D.L. Green Park. Funds for this project will be from sources other than the City, but maintenance after construction would be the responsibility of the City.

Mayor Bearden agreed to place this on the agenda for the November 25 meeting and hold a public hearing to hear comments from citizens. No action was taken at this meeting.

VEHICLE PURCHASES

Consider approval to purchase an ambulance and a vehicle for the Fire Department and four pickups for the Public Works Department. Down payments for all vehicles were budgeted as capital items in the 2008-2009 Budget, and lease purchase financing will be obtained.

After considering the proposals, Commissioner Cardwell suggested that the Fire Department purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to approve the purchase of all vehicles including the four-wheel drive vehicle for the Fire Department.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 866

Consider the resolution authorizing the placement of a yield sign at the intersection of Roberts Street and Wichita Street.

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve the Resolution.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF THREE STRUCTURES:
2200 CUMBERLAND ST., 1503 OLIVE ST., AND 1100 WILBARGER ST.**

Mayor Bearden opened the Public Hearing.

Patty Kidd, Brenda Echols and Betty Bennett addressed the Commission on behalf of their mother, Joy Johnson who lives at 2206 Cumberland, asking that the house at 2200 Cumberland be condemned and destroyed. A.D. Morgan and Barbara Morgan also complained about 2200 Cumberland. Chad Ham, owner of 2200 Cumberland asked for additional time to restore this property.

Code Enforcement Officer David Pilcher noted that this property has been on the City watch list for over a year. A roofing permit had been issued over a year ago, but the roof had not been completely repaired. Special Services Director Monica Wilkinson said that if condemned, the property would be demolished in the next few months.

Commissioner McCuiston said that the City has a duty to protect and help its citizens.

With no other comments, the public hearing was closed.

RESOLUTION NO. 864

Consider a Resolution No. 864 declaring that certain improvements at 2200 Cumberland St., 1503 Olive St. and 1100 Wilbarger St. are public nuisances, and require the taking down and removal of such improvements and condemnation.

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve the resolution as written.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 867

Consider a resolution requesting the Texas Legislature and the Texas Congressional Delegation continue to strive to improve the quality of life for families of Texas and promote good stewardship of our countries energy supplies and natural resources by taking shift and responsive actions encouraging recycling and recovery of invested energy stored in recyclable materials.

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve the resolution.

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

**ACTION PLAN REGARDING ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.**

Mayor Bearden outlined the City of Vernon Action Plan for the Economic Development Initiative with focus on

1. Water Quality/Perception,
2. Downtown/Main Street Revitalization Program,
3. Local Government and Community Interaction,
4. Capitalize on Western Heritage Tourism, and
5. Water Resource Development.
6. Request the Hotel / Motel Tax Committee to formally develop a comprehensive tourism development strategy.
7. Continue to use the economic development allies group as a clearing house to provide a general forum for communication.

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve the action plan.

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

SEWER LINE PROJECT UPDATE

Public Works Director Bob Cochran updated the commission on the progress of the Southwest Sewer Line Project, noting that the project is 76% complete, and due to the rain and some unanticipated gas lines on Kennedy Street, the estimated completion date has been set at December 14.

PARKING FOR ORBISON PARK

City Manager Grant addressed the commission concerning the dangerous situation regarding parking along Sand Road during events at the Kid League Ball Park and Soccer Fields. Parking along Sand Road causes congestion and exposure of small children crossing a highly traveled road. A plan was developed to eliminate parking along Sand Road and develop new parking south of the existing softball fields on the east side of Sand Road, and on the extreme east side of the Pavilion, place signs prohibiting parking on Sand Road, and close the "cut-through" from Sand Road to Ball Park Road to allow for more parking.

This plan will be formally presented at the November 25 City Commission meeting.

**DIRECTIVE TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REGARDING
TERMS OF OFFICE.**

City Manager Grant suggested that the City Commission propose that the Business Development Corporation change their By-Laws to clarify that a "term of office" appointment for 18 months or longer would be considered a full term and any appointment less than 18 months would not be a full term.

Commissioner McCuiston made the motion to suggest this change.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bobby Martin asked the Commission to demolish the house at 1420 Sherman.

Fire Chief Kent Smead reminded the Commission of the Open House at the new Fire Station on Saturday October 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He also noted a commendation that two of his fireman had received for their assistance to a stranded motorist.

Mary Swindall asked how the Multi Purpose Events Center would be marketed. The commission responded that that was a Wilbarger County issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Cardwell moved the Commission go into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. as prescribed in the Public Notice under Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.072 – Deliberations on Real Property..

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

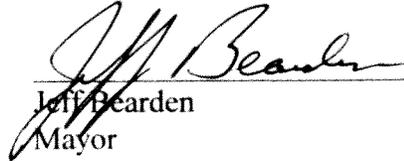
REGULAR SESSION RESUMED

No action was taken following Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Commissioner McCuiston moved the meeting adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

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



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary