

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2015**

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: Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor and Britt Ferguson.

Staff Present: City Manager Joseph Jarosek, City Prosecutor Jonathan Whitsitt, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Marcus Smith, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Municipal Judge Lori O. Adams, Code Enforcement Officer David Pilcher and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Commissioner Hinojosa led the group in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Bryant voiced concern over the article in the Vernon Daily Record concerning ambulance transports.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015; and Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday, November 23, 2015.
- B. Financial Investment Report, Vouchers, and Payroll & Benefit Expense. October 1, 2015 – October 31, 2015.

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONDEMNATION OF STRUCTURES

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing for condemnation of structures at 1304 Strahan St., 2329 Pease St., 2311 Dean St., 3710 Lorange St., 1319 Mesquite St., 1410 Paradise St., and 1013 Houston St.

Chuck Raney voiced concern about the order in which the structures will be condemned. Code Enforcement Officer Pilcher responded that the structure on Pease Street will be moved to the top of the list for destruction after it has been condemned.

With no further comments, Mayor Rogers closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 992

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS DESCRIBED HEREIN ARE PUBLIC NUISANCES, AND REQUIRING THE TAKING DOWN AND REMOVAL OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve Resolution No. 992 condemning of structures at 1304 Strahan St., 2329 Pease St., 2311 Dean St., 3710 Lorange St., 1319 Mesquite St., 1410 Paradise St., and 1013 Houston St.

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

CONTRACT WITH WILBARGER GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS.

City Manager Jarosek explained that under this modified contract transports will be under the direction of the Medical Director of the Hospital, and our activities will be covered under our umbrella insurance coverage through Texas Municipal League.

Claudia Eisenmann, Wilbarger General Hospital Chief Executive Officer, explained the history of the negotiations and exposure of liability for the City. The financial and statistical issues of the contract are still to be negotiated. She also noted that there needed to be a year-end audit of revenue and expenditures.

There followed discussion of the proposed year-end audit, questions about medical malpractice insurance – which are addressed in Section 4 a) of the contract, and the possible liability if the City has to decline a transport. City Prosecutor Whitsitt noted that liability can be incurred by taking a transport and by refusing a transport, but as long as the City was not negligent in our services, we would not likely be liable.

It was also noted that a thirty (30) day termination clause needs to be added to the proposed contract.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve revised contract with Wilbarger General Hospital for Emergency Ambulance Transports pending final legal review.

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

PURCHASE OF TRANSFER SWITCHES

City Manager Jarosek explained that the electrical transfer switches at the Booster Station used to switch power over to a generator were out of compliance. Cost for replacement would be \$12,500. The switches at the Nitrate Plant also need to be replaced to meet TCEQ requirements, and the cost would be an additional \$9,000. The Booster Station switches are budgeted, and the cost of the Nitrate Plant switches could come from savings realized by cancellation of water lease agreements and corrected in a future budget amendment.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve the purchase of transfer switches at the Booster Station and Ion Exchange plant from Fancher Electric for a total of \$21,500.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1676

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS, RESCINDING THE ORIGINAL SALE OF THE PROPERTY AT 2005 CANAL STREET.

City Manager Jarosek explained that the sale of 2005 Canal Street to Cherill Pipes in the amount of \$5,500 was approved at the June 23, 2015 Regular City Commission Meeting. Mr. Pipes has not paid the agreed upon amount, and staff is recommending that the City Commission rescind the sale of 2005 Canal Street to Mr. Pipes to allow that property to be sold at a future date.

Commissioner Ferguson made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 1676 to rescind the sale of tax property located at 2005 Canal St.

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

NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP – AREA B.

City Manager Jarosek explained that the City does not currently have a representative to the Regional Water Planning Group – Area B.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to nominate City Manager Joe Jarosek to represent the City to the Regional Water Planning Group – Area B.

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

**BOARD MEMBER TO ROLLING PLAINS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

City Manager Jarosek explained that Danny McMahan had been the City of Vernon representative on the Rolling Plains Management Corporation Board of Directors. Rolling Plains Executive Director Debra Thomas has requested that the City appoint a new representative to the Board, as well as an alternate Board member so that if the original Board member cannot attend, the alternate appointment will be able to attend and vote.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to appoint Commissioner Hinojosa as the Board Member and Mayor Rogers as the alternate Board member to the Rolling Plains Management Corporation Board of Directors.

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

DISCUSS OWNERSHIP OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

City Manager Jarosek explained that the City has received complaints of concerning available habitat for certain types of animals, and excessive ownership of too many goats, poultry or other animals.

City Prosecutor Whitsitt noted that there are various nuisance ordinances that could cover many of these complaints as well as the animal control ordinances.

Commissioner Hinojosa would like to see restrictions to excessive ownership on the main thoroughfares. Mr. Jarosek assured the Commission that staff would review the possibility.

CITY-COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

City Manager Jarosek and Commissioner Ferguson explained that the County has not yet appointed a residential representative to the committee. There was discussion of the County's response and setting a date for the first meeting of the committee.

DISCUSS LONG-TERM FINANCIAL GOALS

City Manager Jarosek explained the cost estimates for replacement of the water transmission line (\$11 mil) and updating the Wastewater Treatment Plant ((\$11 mil). He also outlined various scenarios for 20 year and 30 year payout of \$11 million loan payments and Texas Water Development Board Funding.

The street inventory was also discussed. First time paving and cost of repair were included in the inventory.

Mr. Jarosek explained that these are tangible projects to use in setting goals. Current low interest rates will make borrowing costs less than they will be in the future. He also noted that Texas Water Development Board rates fluctuate according to market rates.

Digital Recording on file

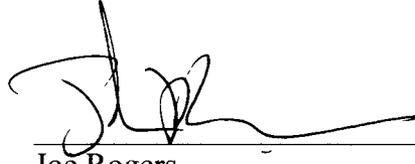
Public Works Director Kennon explained the ranking for drinking water and clear water revolving loan funds.

There was discussion of the street inventory and the cost of paving and street repair.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Ferguson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary