

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

Mayor Joe Rogers called the Special 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, 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.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT WITH WILBARGER GENERAL HOSPITAL

City Manager Jarosek explained that the most recent version of this agreement makes changes that all transports be made under physician directive and not by patient preference and requires the City to make at least one ambulance available for transportation services unless there is a community emergency or a designated disaster.

City Prosecutor Whitsitt noted that this agreement states that all transports must be medically necessary, and the Hospital agrees to find the closest accepting hospital with the level of care as needed by the patient being transported. The latest version of the agreement allows the City to meet all required standards in the Texas Health and Safety Code and the Texas Administrative Code.

Wilbarger General Hospital Chief Executive Officer Claudia Eisenmann noted that this agreement fulfills everyone's objectives, and County Judge Greg Tyra added that this will meet the needs of the citizens and community.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve proposed Ground Transportation Agreement with Wilbarger General Hospital.

Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion.

The Commission members all voiced appreciation for the work in finalizing this agreement, after which the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF PUMP AT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

City Manager Jarosek explained that one of three pumps that takes the entire sewer from town and pushed it through the Wastewater Treatment Plant has broken down due to wear and the age of the pump. The two available options are:

1. Repair the existing pump at a cost of \$21,744. This would require parts that are basically obsolete. The repairs would have a one year warranty.
2. Replace the existing pump with a new variable frequency drive pump at an initial cost of \$23,814.61 plus \$650 for changing the pump controller program. The new pump would have a five year warranty and is much more efficient due to less energy consumption. This would be the best long-term solution but the drawback is that if another of the two remaining two speed pumps go out, it would require that we install a new pump control system and both of the remaining pumps with a total cost of \$147,679.17. One of the remaining pumps was rebuilt several years ago, but the other remaining pump could fail at any time.

There was lengthy discussion of the difference in the single speed and variable speed pumps, budget needs and possible transfer from budget line items from the bulk water purchases budget to cover the cost to replace the one pump. The additional \$147,679.17 cost to upgrade the sewer treatment plant would be requested in the FY2016-2017 budget unless the other two pumps fail before then.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve emergency purchase of pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with Option Two and make budget amendments as reflected.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION
DELIBERATION CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY - WATER.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to enter Executive Session – Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551- Section 551.072 – Deliberation Concerning Real Property – Water at 6:48 pm.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to resume regular session at 7:18 pm.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION
CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to enter Executive Session – Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551- Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney at 7:19 pm.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to resume regular session at 7:59 pm.

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

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH PROGRESSIVE WASTE SOLUTIONS

City Manager Jarosek and City Prosecutor Whitsitt noted that they wanted the Commission to have an opportunity to discuss the Franchise Agreement before it is proposed as an ordinance at the Regular February Meeting.

The Commission members indicated that they would like to have more time before any discussion.

The Franchise Agreement will be approved by two reading of an Ordinance before the April 1 effective date.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary