

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 20, 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, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Tourism and Main Street Director Brandy McIntyre 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.

By consent of all Commission members, the order of the agenda was changed to move the Executive Session to the end of the meeting.

UPDATE ON WATER PROJECTS

City Manager Jarosek explained that discussion continues with the City of Altus concerning the Round Timber water field. The City of Vernon is still able to tap into this field if needed, but would need to lay pipeline to connect those wells with our transmission line. Altus has one million gallon excess production available. We would have to share in the cost of maintenance of the wells with the City of Altus. Another well field is available to the city, but cannot be discussed until negotiations are complete.

The main water transmission line was built in the 1950's and replacement of the entire line would cost approximately \$12 million. We currently have fourteen leaks in this transmission line, and the cost of each repair is \$10,000 - \$16,000. We currently have a Request for Qualifications sent to engineering firms to study the cost and feasibility of replacement of this line. Yearly bond payments on this amount of debt would be \$975,200 for a twenty year loan and \$885,683 for a thirty year loan.

The Mayor allowed questions from the audience, and it was asked if there was any federal help available. Mr. Jarosek responded that the Texas Water Development Board has programs available with partial forgivable loans and lower interest rates.

POTENTIAL WATER SURFACE RESERVOIR

Water Advisory Board Member Joe Coufal explained that the proposed location of a lake on Wildcat Creek does not seem to be the best location for a lake at this time. There is not adequate depth to provide sufficient water during dry years. Mayor Rogers added that he and others went out to look at the site that afternoon.

City Manager Jarosek noted that all of our sources of water are in the Seymour Aquifer, and we need to have a stable and adequate supply for the future, and staff will revisit old project proposals to see if they are still viable.

Comments from the audience included:

- Jim Pennington questioning the Ed Lehman Project. He was assured that the City would look at everything.
- Doug Jeffries discussed water projects from 2008 and noted that the Altus water (Round Timber) would be the lowest quality water at the highest cost.
- Freddie Streit noted that the Pease River Project was twenty years from completion if it started back up now. We need something now, not twenty years from now.
- Rick Hardcastle noted that there has not been a new lake permitted in the past eighteen years.

City Manager Jarosek agreed that the Altus well field is more costly due to the nitrate. Altus is using the north wells and we are interested in the five wells on the south end of the property. Commissioner Taylor assured everyone that the City is looking at every opportunity for new water sources, but the most important item is the transmission line.

Mr. Jarosek and Public Works Director Kennon were also asked about effluent reuse, but noted that it is not economically feasible at this time.

CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

There was no action on this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
DELIBERATION CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY - WATER.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to enter Executive Session – Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551- Section 551.072 – Deliberation Concerning Real Property – Water at 7:09 pm.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION


Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to resume regular session at 8:35 pm.

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

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:


Linda Byers
City Secretary