

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 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: Guy Spears, Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor and Britt Ferguson

Staff Present: City Prosecutor Jonathan Whitsitt, Fire Chief J.J. Oznick, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Tourism & Main Street Director Brandy McIntyre and City Secretary Linda Byers.

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

EMERGENCY ACTION REGARDING BUILDINGS IN 1700 BLOCK OF PEASE ST

Community Development Director Wilkinson explained that the building at 1716 Pease Street was owned by On-T-J, Inc. of which Michael Payne is the registered agent. Ms. Wilkinson also outlined the damage following the collapse of the roof of this building on September 10 both to that building and the neighboring buildings. Fire Chief Oznick has declared the building a hazard and adjoining buildings unsafe for habitation. Mr. Payne claims that the corporation has no assets and he is unable to pay for demolition, and has no insurance. He has signed a Remediation, Demolition and Clearance Release so that the city can proceed with demolition to protect the health and safety of citizens.

Structural Engineer Brian Pierce completed a structural evaluation of the building and observed damage to the common walls and established general recommendations to improve conditions. Ms. Wilkinson also noted that state law requires that any commercial building scheduled for demolition must have asbestos remediation. She suggested delaying demolition until an asbestos survey can be done early next week so that the entire building will not have to be treated as asbestos. This will reduce the cost of demolition. If asbestos is found, only two area contractors are certified to handle asbestos demolition. Due to the emergency situation, the city will not have to go through the bidding process and can proceed with the best available proposal.

Following discussion of the asbestos survey, placing a lien on the property, and the recommendations of the engineer, Greg Tyra, owner of the building at 1722 Pease Street, spoke and voiced his hope that the commission would follow the engineers' recommendation to shore up his adjoining wall and not require him to use his personal funds.

Digital Recording on file

Commissioner Spears made the motion to approve asbestos survey and remediation as soon as possible of the danger to the public at 1716 Pease Street as recommended by engineering report provided by Peirce Engineering and follow permanent recommendation of #2.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion. Following discussion of the need to resolve other problems with downtown buildings, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
DELIBERATION CONCERNING PERSONNEL – INTERIM CITY MANAGER

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to enter Executive Session – Deliberation Concerning Personnel - Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551 – Section 551.074 – Interim City Manager at 7:04 pm.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to resume regular session at 7:55 pm.

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

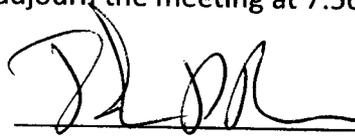
ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Spears made the motion to approve appointment of Interim City Manager Joe Pence and the agreement for interim city manager.

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

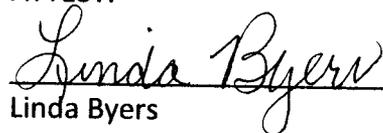
ADJOURN

Commissioner Spears made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary