

A regular meeting of the Sweeny City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kenneth Lott called the meeting to order. He stated the meetings are conducted in strict compliance with Roberts Rule of Order.

2. Roll Call

Council Present: Gary Coker, Dale Lemon, Ray Bailey, and Linda Diaz.
James Wise was absent.

Also present: Cindy King, City Manager; Tim Wells, Chief of Police; Wendell Becker, Utilities Superintendent, and Charlie Stevenson, City Attorney. Homer Toscano, Director of Public Works was absent.

3. Invocation

Invocation was given by Mayor Lott.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited and lead by Cub Scout Robert Ging from Troop 561.

5. Presentation of Citizens

None

Visitors: Frank Lawrence, Robert Ging, Robert E. Ging, Johnny Smith, Andy Taravio, Chris Jones, Bryan Burleson, Neal Bess Jr., Ben Loftus, TJ Loftus, Melyssa Cuelle, Houston Cuelle, Doug and Tammy Isaacs, Jamison McDonald, Brantley Jarrell, Aaron Mikel, Leigh Ann Thornton, Mike and Melissa Schultz.

6. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes - December 20, 2011

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes from December 20, 2011, as written. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Bills - \$24,586.92

Dale Lemon made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$24,586.92. Linda Diaz seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. Public Hearings

None

8. Fire Department Report

Tim Webb gave the report.

Swear in New Officers:

Tim Webb, Chief

Chris Jones, Assistant Chief
Ryan Crouch, Captain
Johnny Liserio, Captain

9. Old Business

A. Update on Water Wells / Craig K.

We had J & S Water Wells video and inspect Water Wells #1 and #4. The video found in Well #1 the casing itself had a lot of incrustation and pitting. The pipe base that supports the screen has deteriorated. The well is not operable as it is. J & S has given us a letter of what they found and a list recommendations to get the well working again. 1) Mobilize 2) Airlift debris 3) Camera Survey. At that time they will see if its operable. If it is not, they will stop there and plug and abandon it at a cost of \$6,850.00. If it is good, they will continue at a total cost of \$57,960.00 Craig said a new well will cost about \$325,000.00.

Well #4 is only 13 years old, but it has not been used because it has manganese and foul odor. This well is also high in iron. We could not use the well by itself. The camera was not able to go all the way down in #4. J & S has recommendations for this well also for a total of \$37,300.00.

Dale Lemon made a motion to let J & S go with its recommendations for Water Well #1. 1) Mobilize. 2) Airlift debris. 3) Camera Survey at \$6,350.00. Then Craig will come back to council and tell us if the well is able to go forward or needs to be plugged and abandoned. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Award Bid for Hackberry Elevated Water Tower.

On January 11, 2012, we opened bids on the Hackberry Street Elevated Water Tower. We got five bids. The low bidder was Caldwell Tanks for \$223,113. 00 to repaint the water tower. Ray Bailey made a motion to award the bid the Caldwell Tanks to repaint the Hackberry Water Tower. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Surveillance Camera.

Bryan Burlison with ESI Security addressed the council with 2 different proposals on surveillance cameras for the city. Council discussed on where to put the cameras. Right now, put two at City Hall and two at the Community Center. Ray Bailey made a motion to approve 4 surveillance cameras at \$4,836.00. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Approve Park Land Ballot Proposition Committee.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the Park Land Ballot Proposition Committee as: Frances Jammer, Kim Jurek, and Gary Coker. Linda Diaz seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Walking Trail at Backyard Park.

Gary Coker made a motion to table for February meeting. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10. New Business

A. Agreement with Hilcorp Energy on MLK Park and Walking Trail Properties.

Dale addressed the council that he is trying to get information on the lease with Hilcorp on these two properties. We are supposed to have a 99 year lease for \$1.00 dollar a year, but cannot find any signed paperwork. Cindy has called Brazoria County and found nothing. Neal Bess addressed the council that he was on council in 1984 when we obtained this lease with then Amoco, sometime between June and Aug of 1984. Charlie Stevenson asked Neal if there was a written agreement and Neal said yes. NO ACTION.

B. Discuss Renewal / Changes in Garbage Contract with Waste Connections.

Johnny Smith addressed the council that the current contract is from 2006 with Republic Waste. In 2009, Republic Waste and Allied merged and is now Waste Connections. In September, 2011, our contract expired. Mr. Smith has three proposals. 1) Stay with our current service with a fee of \$18.34, a \$1.37 increase. 2) Once a week trash with cart, and recycle every other week with cart with a fee of \$16.25, a .72 cent decrease. 3). Once a week pick up with cart and recycle every week with cart for \$17.50, a .53 increase. Heavy Trash would be every Saturday. Ray Bailey made a motion to approve # 2) Once a week trash with cart, heavy trash every week and recycle every other week with cart with a fee of \$16.25, a .72 cent decrease. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discuss Variance to Live-in RV on Property / Frank Lawrence.

Frank Lawrence addressed the council and asked to live in his RV at his resident at 504 E. First Street for about 3 weeks while he gets his home ready to sell. After much discussion, Mayor Lott asked for a motion. None given. Mayor Lott declares refusal from council to grant a variance.

D. Discuss Changing of Animal Ordinance to allow Pot Belly Pig / Melissa Schultz.

Melissa Schultz asked the council to consider changing the animal ordinance to allow pot belly pigs in the city limits. Her family has one, "Lola" and has been given a citation by Officer Odom. The current ordinance was written in 1987. Ms. Schultz had written documents from her neighbors that "Lola" was not a nuisance in any way. Ray Bailey thought no citation should have been given, but this is what the current ordinance states.

Ray made a motion to leave the ordinance as is and let Ms. Schultz and family keep the pig. Charlie Stevenson stated we should amend the ordinance to allow pot belly pigs. Ray Bailey made a motion to amend the ordinance to allow pot belly pigs as a domesticated pet with the same stipulations that City of Brazoria has. Dale Lemon seconded. Gary Coker abstained. Motion carried.

E. Discuss Permitted Paid Parking for Tractor Trailers on City Property / Ray B.

No Action

F. Consider and Act Upon Adoption of the City of Sweeny's Fair Housing Activity Statement.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the Adoption of the City of Sweeny's Fair Housing Activity Statement. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G. Review and Approve Investment Policy.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the Investment Policy. Linda Diaz seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

H. Approve Stephen Nance for Vacancy on Planning and Zoning Board of Commissioners.

Gary Coker made a motion to approve Stephen Nance for Vacancy on Planning and Zoning Board of Commissioners. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11. Mayor, Council, and Staff Reports

None

12. Closed Executive Session

OPEN MEETING:

13. Discussion and action from Executive Session.

14. Adjournment at 8:55 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2012

Reatta Minshew, City Secretary