

A regular meeting of the City Council of Sweeny, Texas, was held at City Hall on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 6 pm.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rodney Weems called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Council Present: Gary Coker, Dale Lemon, Ray Bailey, Rachel Wells and Pat Moss. Also present: Cindy King, City Manager; Charlie Stevenson, City Attorney; John Barnard, Chief of Police; Homer Toscano, Dir. of Public Works.

3. Invocation

Invocation was given by Charlie Stevenson.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Neal Bess Jr.

****Mayor Weems recognized Benjamin Loftus for achieving Eagle Scout and thanked him for his project which enhanced fire fighters ability to quickly identify flow capacity at each fire hydrant in town.**

5. Presentation of Citizens

Neal Bess Jr. spoke to council about issues he is having with his water. Addressed gas leaks in town and suggested HUD Grant Money for drainage projects.

Agatha Sanchez invited everyone to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at the Methodist Church Family Life Center.

Visitors: Agatha Sanchez, Neal Bess Jr., Kim Jurek, Katherine Bonner.

6. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2013

B. Approval of Bills \$46,664.15

Dale Lemon made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$46,664.15 and approve minutes of October 15, 2013. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

7. Public Hearing:

8. Fire Department Report

Devin Lemon gave the report.

9. Old Business

A. Final Approval to Subdivide Property 106

Dale Lemon made a motion to table until further notice from Johnny Crober, the owner. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Approve Amendments to Junk Vehicle Ordinance

After much discussion and Charlie Stevenson stating to be careful when we amend an ordinance, what is someone's art, might be someone else's junk.

Rachel Wells made a motion to amend the junk vehicle ordinance. Pat Moss seconded. Before the vote could be called, Mr. Bailey made a motion to amend the previous motion to add the word **antique**, to the section where it reads "such a vehicle used as yard art". Rachel Wells seconded. Gary Coker opposed. Motion carried 4 to 1.

The revised motion was then put to vote. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Gary Coker voting no.

10. New Business

A. City Lots Ordinance of Clean Properties Taking Care of in House before Writing Tickets

After much discussion about writing tickets to home owner that are not mowing their properties while we the City are not mowing and taking care of some of our properties. Mayor Weems acknowledged that the City needs to do a better job of maintaining our properties and the public works will be asked to do that and the Police Dept will continue to do what they need to do. NO ACTION.

B. Discuss / Approve Flush Valves on Dead End Lines

Homer Toscano addressed the council and informed them of 14 dead end lines in town. Craig Kankel had advised us to purchase some flush valves for our dead end lines to help keep the water moving or circulating. Mr. Toscano advised that each valve would cost \$300.00, for a total of \$4200.00.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve amending the budget for the \$4200.00 for the purchase of the flush valves. Rachel Wells seconded. Gary Coker, Dale Lemon and Rachel Wells voted yes. Ray Bailey and Pat Moss opposed. Motion carried.

C. Discuss / Approve Amending Ordinance Regarding Storage of Explosives and Flammables

Cindy King addressed the council and stated she and Devin Lemon with the EDC have been discussing the ordinance regarding Apache Oil coming

into the Industrial Park and the storage of their gas and lubricants. Our ordinance doesn't state a specific number of gallons. Cindy would like Charlie to draw up an amendment to the ordinance.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve Charlie Stevenson to write an amendment to the Ordinance. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Discuss / Approve Tax Resale at 203 Martin Luther King

Lakesha Benn made an offer of \$8,000.00 for a tax resale bid for 203 Martin Luther King.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the bid of \$8,000.00. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Approve Resolution to cast votes for Brazoria County Appraisal District

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the resolution to cast all nine votes for Glenn Salyer. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

F. Discuss / Approve Supporting State Sales Tax Increase for Street Improvements

The Mayor received a letter from the Mayor of Big Lake, Texas. He is asking all small towns to support a change to add one cent of sales tax that would create a fund for street improvements for every city in Texas.

Ray Bailey made a motion to table. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G. Discuss / Approve Walk of Trees VS Donation to West Brazos Cares

Cindy stated to the council that last year we donated money to West Brazos Cares instead of donating a Christmas tree to a family.

Ray Bailey made a motion to donate \$75.00 to West Brazos Cares. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

H. Approve a Variance for Beatification to Allow Fireworks Display at Pride Day

Gary Coker made a motion to approve the variance to allow fireworks display at Pride Day in May. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

I. Discuss / Approve Changes in Water and Sewer Rates

Cindy addressed the council that in our planning meetings we had discussed raising the water and sewer rates. Craig Kankel had suggested options to receive more revenue. This would bring in about \$60,000.00 more.

Ray Bailey made a motion to table for next budget workshop in July 2014. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J. Discuss / Approve Court Credit Card Payments Via Website

Cindy addressed the council and told them the Court has been collecting fees and placed in a special account within the General Funds but can only be used for technology supporting the court system. If approved, this would allow residents to pay only court fines and fees via the website. However, since the separate account is established within the General Fund, the budget would need to be amended to spend these dollars.

Dale Lemon made a motion to amend the budget to pull the money from the savings to approve court credit card payments in the amount of \$5380.00 (for the software) plus \$2263.00 for maintenance fees. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7:06 pm Dale Lemon left the meeting to go to work.

K. Discuss / Approve Increased Court Security at City Hall

Mayor Weems read the agenda item and stated again, the monies would come from the court technology fund. This would enhance the security here at City Hall, plans would include bullet proof glass at the front counter and locked doors to the council chambers and Cindy's office.

Gary Coker made a motion to approve the security at City Hall. Rachel Wells seconded. Ray Bailey opposed. Pat Moss voted yes. Motion carried.

L. Discuss / Approve Raising Fee's on Retuned Checks

The current fee for a returned check is \$25.00, Cindy King stated. We would to raise it to the maximum by state law of \$30.00.

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve raising the returned check fee to \$30.00 and to keep it at the maximum by state law. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

M. Discuss / Approve SEDC project Phillip 66 Pipeline

SEDC is requesting approval from council to give Phillips 66 Pipeline 10 acres plus utilities up to the property at the Industrial Park.

Gary Coker made a motion to approve the 10 acres plus utilities to the property at the Industrial Park. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11. Closed Executive Session**

OPEN MEETING

- 12. Discussion and action from Executive Session**
- 13. Adjournment: 7:17 p.m.**

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2013

Reatta Minshew, City Secretary