

A public hearing and regular meeting of the City Council of Sweeny, Texas, was held at City Hall on Tuesday, September 17, 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 lead by Ray Bailey.

Mayor Weems read a proclamation from the VFW proclaiming September 22, 2013 as POW and MIA Recognition Day.

5. Presentation of Citizens:

Ron Schimdt from 702 Maple, asked the council to walk the Stevenson Slough around Pine and Maple Street and look at the drainage issues and talk to the home owners in that area and see if there are things we can do to ease the potential flooding issues. He stated it now takes only three inches of rain to do what 25 years ago six inches of rain would do to that area.

Ruby Griggs from 115 S. Travis asked the council what the procedure was on cleaning overgrown lots in town. She stated there are several on her street that need to be addressed.

Visitors: Ron Schimdt, Vera Ross, Kim Jurek, William Hunter, Karen and Michele Hutchings, Leigh Ann Thornton.

6. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes – August 20, and August 26, 2013

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2013 as written. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

B. Approval of Bills \$23,073.08

Ray Bailey made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$23,073.08. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

7. Public Hearing: 2013-2014 Budget

8. Fire Department Report

Roger Barton gave the report.

9. Old Business

A. Approve Ordinance Over 65 Exemptions

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the ordinance increasing the tax exemption amount for persons over sixty-five or disabled to twenty-five thousand dollars to take place for the 2013 Tax Year. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Approve Ordinance for Increase of Utility Rates

Charlie Stevenson read the ordinance establishing a charge for:

1) Water Service of \$11.00, which will cover the water service metered up to 1500 gallons, after the first 1500 gallons of water metered the charge will be the sum of \$5.30 for each addition 1000 gallons metered.

2) Sewer Service of \$11.00, which will cover the sewer service metered up to 1500 gallons, after the first 1500 gallons of sewer metered the charge will be the sum of \$4.30 for each addition 1000 gallons metered.

3) A \$5.00 increase on all turn on fees.

4) An Infrastructure Fund charge of \$2.00 per month shall be added to the water/sewer bill for each customer. The additional revenue collected by this additional fee shall be used to fund infrastructure improvements.

Gary Coker made a motion to approve the ordinance for the increase of utility rates. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discuss / Approve Option for Proposal to SISD to acquire land.

Mayor Weems wrote a proposal letter to SISD to revisit the possibility of the city acquiring the land of 22+ acres previously discussed between the two parties on FM 524 across from the Industrial Park. This proposal's intent is to obtain the transfer of said property for in-kind services. Mayor Weems is asking council permission to send this letter to SISD. This proposal opens the door up for discussion with SISD. The proposal states:

*) The City will take action to annex the property

*) SEDC would fund the money for the infrastructure in an amount of approximately \$300,000.00

*) The City will waive all related utility connection fees related to the construction of housing units. (Utility Fees, Building Permits)

Dale Lemon made the motion to give Mayor Weems permission to send this proposal to SISD. Rachel Wells seconded. Gary Coker abstained, Pat Moss opposed and Ray Bailey opposed. 2 yes's, 2 no's, tied. Mayor Weems broke the tie and voted yes. Motion carried.

10. New Business

A. Award Bid for 2013 Sidewalk Project

Dale Lemon made a motion to award a bid to Mutula and Mutula in the amount of \$35,729.50 for the 2013 Sidewalk Project. Cindy King stated that SEDC would pay half and the city would pay half. Pat Moss seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Approve Engagement Letter with Kennermer, Masters Audit.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter with Kennermer, Masters for the 2013-2014 Audit. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Approve Budget Amendments

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the 2012- 2013 budget amendments. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor.

D. Approve Resolution for the 2013-2014 Budget

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the resolution approving the City of Sweeny's 2013-2014 Budget. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Ordinance to Set Tax Rate

Ray Bailey made a motion as stated: I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.887456, which is effectively a 6.13 percent increase in the tax rate. Gary Coker seconded. Roll call vote: Gary Coker yes, Dale Lemon yes, Ray Bailey yes, Rachel Wells yes, Pat Moss yes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

F. Approve SEDC Budget

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the SEDC budget for 2013-2014. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G. Approve SEDC New Board members

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve Nina Canchola, Debbie Williams, Frances Jammer and Kim Jurek each for a 2 year term. Pat Moss seconded. Ray Bailey's vacancy for one year term was tabled. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- H. Approve Resolution to sell in trust properties at Public Resale**
Dale Lemon made a motion to table until next month for the council to have more time to review. Pat Moss seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- I. Approve Jail Service Agreement with West Columbia**
Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the jail service agreement with West Columbia. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- J. Nomination by Resolution for Brazoria County Appraisal District**
Dale Lemon made a motion to nominate Lee Ann Thornton and William Edward Hunter for the Brazoria County Appraisal District. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- K. Approve Resolution and Designation of Representative / Alternate for H-GAC**
Ray Bailey made a motion to approve Mayor Rodney Weems and Designation of Representative and Mayor Pro-tem Gary Coker the alternate for H-GAC. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- L. Approve Road and Bridge Interlocal Agreement with Brazoria County**
Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the road and bridge interlocal agreement with Brazoria County. Ray Bailey seconded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11. Closed Executive Session**

OPEN MEETING

- 12. Discussion and action from Executive Session**

- 13. Adjournment: 7:24 p.m.**

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2013

Reatta Minshew, City Secretary