

A regular meeting of the City Council of Sweeny, Texas, was held at City Hall on Monday, December 22, 2014 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, and Jerry Phillips. Rachel Wells was absent. Also present: Cindy King, City Manager; Charlie Stevenson, 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 to the American Flag was recited and led by Ray Bailey.

Pledge to the Texas Flag was recited and led by Mayor Weems.

VISITORS: Ralph Nairn

5. Presentation of Citizens:

6. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes: November 6, 12, and 18 2014

B. Approval of Bills \$96,138.27

Gary Coker made a motion to approve consent items. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

7. Public Hearing:

8. Fire Department Report – Cindy King gave the report.

9. Old Business

A. Discuss / Take Action Placing on Ballot “Amending City Charter Section 6.02”

Mayor Weems stated that the Charter reads: The city judge and the mayor are elected on the same year. This was never put into practice from the time the city went to a Home Ruled City. We need to amend the charter to read that they are elected on opposite years. Dale Lemon made a motion to have the city attorney get language to put on the May 2015 ballot to amend the charter to read: the city judge and the mayor are elected on opposite years for election. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Discuss / Take Action on Animal Control Ordinance

Cindy King and Homer Toscano met with the state and looked at our ordinance to see what needed to be updated. We looked at a lot of redundancy in our ordinance and cleaned it up so it’s easier to read. We made some corrections and added the new pound fees and adoption fees that were approved by council.

Charlie Stevenson read the caption repealing Chapter 95: “Animals” from the code of ordinances from the City of Sweeny, Adopting a New Chapter 95: “Animals”.

Ray Bailey made a motion to accept the repeal of Chapter 95 in its entirety and adopt the new Chapter 95 as written. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discuss /Take Action on Amending Swimming Pool / Detention – Retention Pond Ordinance

Gary Coker stated this change in the ordinance is due to the new SIDS Baseball Field on Hackberry Street has a retention pond and the Industrial Park will be digging a pond in the future. Charlie Stevenson stated all we are adding to the existing Swimming Pool Fence Requirements Ordinance Chapter 150.18 is to add definition of “Detention/Retention Pond” applying fencing requirements.

Dale Lemon made a motion to accept the amended Swimming Pool / Detention / Retention Pond Ordinance. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Discuss / Take Action Mowing of Private Property

NO ACTION

10. New Business

A. Discuss / Take Action on 3 Way Stop Sign at 7th Street and Stevenson

Ralph Nairn addressed the council asking for a 3 way stop sign at 7th Street and Stevenson St. He states that the cars speed down 7th Street, where he resides and walks on. Jerry Phillips stated he agrees with putting a 3 way stop sign there. Chief Barnard stated a 40 hour study was done a year ago and found no need for a stop sign.

Jerry Phillips made a motion to put up a stop sign at 7th Street and Stevenson Street. Dale Lemon seconded. Gary Coke and Ray Bailey voted no. Mayor Weems had to vote to break the tie and voted no. Motion denied.

6:44 pm / 5 Minute recess.

6:49 pm / Back in session.

B. Discuss /Take Action to Allow SISD to Burn Building at FM 524 and Railroad.

Fire Marshall Devin Lemon addressed the council and stated he was against giving a variance to SISD to burn in the city limits. We would also need approval from TECQ approval and they only give approval if this could be fire department training. The Sweeny Fire Department would not train on this due to asbestos and shingles.

Dale Lemon made a motion to deny the variance asked from SISD on burning a building down at FM 524 and the Railroad. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discuss /Take Action to Add Full Time Position

Cindy King addressed the council for adding a full time clerical position. We have had a part time position for four years now and would like to make it a full time position.

Homer is in need of clerical help with TCEQ and Railroad Reports. Chief Barnard is need of clerical help also for reports. She spoke with Homer and he stated we could get by with two summer boys instead of four, this would cover her salary.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the full time position. Gary Coker seconded. Ray Bailey abstained. Jerry Phillips voted yes. Motion carried.

D. Discuss / Take Action on Water Well #4

Cindy spoke to the council and asked them what direction the council would like to take concerning Water Well #4. It is high in iron and manganese and we are currently not using it. If we don't use it we could lose it. We need to use it and get complaints from the residents concerning taste and color or not use it and chance lose it or proceed to purchase a filter for the iron and manganese to put the well in service.

Gary Coker made a motion to table and have Cindy get information on: 1) cost to drill another well. 2) cost for the filter.

Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Discuss / Take Action on Resolution to Adopt Procedures, Agenda Format and Conduct for Council Meetings

Mayor Weems stated we need a plan in place or a policy to go by for council meetings to abide by.

Ray Bailey made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution to adopt procedures, agenda format and conduct for council meetings. Gary Coker seconded. Dale Lemon and Jerry Phillips voted no. Mayor Weems broke the tie with yes. Motion carried.

F. Discuss / Take Action on Chamber Dues

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve \$150.00 for Chamber Dues. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G. Discuss /Take Action on 2015 Holiday Schedule

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the 2015 Holiday Schedule. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

H. Review Resolution 108-04

Mayor Weems addressed the council stating in 2004 council passed Resolution 108-04 Tax Abatement. To continue tax abatement the city has to have a current resolution to abate taxes. Mayor Weems asked council if this is a tool they would like to use? No action. Council asked Cindy to put on next agenda.

I. Should the City Reach out to Adjacent Land Owners to Ask for Annex to Encourage Housing Dev.

Have a joint meeting w/ EDC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

12. Closed Executive Session:

OPEN MEETING:

13. Discussion and action from Executive Session:

14. Adjournment: 7:38 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2014

Reatta Minshew, City Secretary