

A regular meeting of the City Council of Sweeny, Texas, was held at City Hall on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6 pm.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rodney Weems called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Council Present: Gary Coker, Dale Lemon, Rachel Wells and Jerry Phillips. Ray Bailey 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 Neal Bess.
Pledge to the Texas Flag was recited and led by Rachel Wells.

VISITORS:

- 5. Presentation of Citizens:** Neal Bess asked the council to give this SEDC board the opportunity to work with the contractors that we hire and if you have any problems with what they are doing tell me or any board member.

6. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes: December 22, 2014

B. Approval of Bills \$24,269.31

Dale Lemon made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$24,269.31, and to accept the December 22, 2014 minutes with the correction of 10A, to record the no votes of Mr. Lemon and Mr. Phillips and 10E to record yes votes of Mr. Coker and Mr. Bailey. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

7. Public Hearing:

8. Fire Department Report / Swear in New Officers –

Roger Barton gave the report. We had 17 calls, one house fire resulting in two fatalities.

New Officers:

Roger Barton / Chief

Tim Treaster / 2nd Captain

9. Old Business

A. Discuss / Take Action Amendment to City Charter Section 6.02

Charlie Stevenson read the language to go on the ballot: Should Section 6.02 of the City of Sweeny Charter be amended to state that the office of the Judge of the

Municipal Court be for a two year term in alternating years and not concurrently with the term of the Mayor?

Dale Lemon made a motion to accept the amendment as Mr. Stevenson read to go on the ballot. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Discuss / Take Action Option for Water Well #4.

Mr. Smith with O'Malley and Strand, (O'Malley Engineers has changed their name), addressed the council discussing water well #4. Craig Kankel had put together some cost estimates for water well #4 to increase the water quality. 1) New Filter for Iron and Manganese \$912,000.00. 2) Install Reverse Osmosis System \$2.285 Million. 3) Drill another Well \$209,000.00.

Dale Lemon made a motion to table for now and have Gary Coker work with Cindy and Homer to decide which option the city needs to go with. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discuss / Take Action on Amending Resolution 108-04 (Tax Abatements)

Dale Lemon made a motion that he (Dale Lemon) would work with Cindy King, the Mayor and Homer Toscano to come up with Tax Abatement Resolution and bring it back to council. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Discuss / Take Action New Electrical Contract

Cindy King stated this was brought up in October to find a lower rate for electricity. Council voted to wait until closer to the end of the contract with Noble America which is May 2016. With the drop in oil prices she and Mayor Weems were curious what rates were out there now. Our current rate with Noble America is .06344. As of Friday, January 16, 2015, Ms.King found a rate of .05148. This would be a savings of 19% of the budget

6:48 pm (turned tape over) and would be a total savings of \$36,000 for the year. Dale Lemon stated he thinks the prices will continue to drop and we need to sit and wait.

Dale Lemon made a motion to take no action on the electrical rates. Motion died for lack of a second.

NO ACTION

10. New Business

A. Discuss / Award Bid for SEDC /Pipeline Project

Francis Jammer addressed the council and stated SEDC is in the process of rejecting the bids received for the pipeline project.

B. Discuss / Take Action Sell of Misc. Police Department Equipment

Chris Beck stated the PD has in evidence; fire arms, tools, tattoo equipment and jewelry. The PD is asking permission to auction off or sell this property.

Dale Lemon made a motion to go forward to auction off or sale the surplus property. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discuss / Take Action Resolution of Support of McKinney Manor Apartments

Ben Farmer Vice President of Hamilton Valley Management, a family owned and operated Management and Development Company, specializing in USDA and Tax Credit Finance Properties, like McKinney Manor Apartments here is Sweeny. They have submitted an application to Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs to rehabilitate the McKinney Manor Apartments. Part of the process is to reach out to the local council, government/municipalities and seek a resolution of support in the endeavor to obtain tax credit. If they are successful in getting the funding, they would sink about one million dollars into the property.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the resolution to support Hamilton Valley Management on the Rehab of McKinney Manor Apartments. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Discuss / Take Action on Contract for Jail Service with West Columbia

Cindy King stated this is our annual contract for the jail service. It has gone up from \$20.00 per prisoner per day to \$50.00 per prisoner per day.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the jail agreement with West Columbia. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Discuss / Nominate for Vacancy on Brazoria County Appraisal District Board of Directors

No Action

F. Discuss / Take Action on Resolution Supporting Additional Routes of Heavy Lift Corridor in Brazoria County

Mayor Weems stated this corridor is from Port Freeport on Hwy 36 to West Columbia and westbound on Hwy 35 to Chevron Phillips.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the resolution to support the heavy lift corridor. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G. Proclamations:

- 1. February 2015 African American History Month**
- 2. J & J Tax Service 50 Years of Service**
- 3. Cindy King announced Homer Toscano is celebrating 35 years of employment with the City of Sweeny.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 11. Closed Executive Session**

OPEN MEETING:

- 12. Discussion and action from Executive Session**
- 13. Adjournment: 7:05 p.m.**

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2015

Reatta Minshev, City Secretary