

A regular meeting of the City Council of Sweeny, Texas, was held at City Hall on Tuesday, March 17, 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, Ray Bailey, Rachel Wells and Jerry Phillips. Also present: Cindy King, City Manager; Charlie Stevenson, Attorney, John Barnard, Chief of Police; Jose De`Julian`, Public Works.

3. Invocation

Invocation was given by Charlie Stevenson.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge to the American Flag was recited and led by David Linder.

Pledge to the Texas Flag was recited and led by Rachel Wells.

VISITORS:

5. Presentation of Citizens: Karen Trippson from 605 Ave A spoke to council concerning drainage on Ave A.

David Linder with Commissioners Court of Brazoria County was visiting.

6. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes: February 17, 2015

B. Approval of Bills \$15,404.86

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve the consent items, the minutes of Feb. 17, 2015 and the bills in the amount of \$15,404.86. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. Public Hearing:

8. Fire Department Report / James Christian gave the report.

April 2015 will be the 20th year anniversary for Sweeny Fire and Rescue. Current roster is 19.

9. Old Business

10. New Business

A. Discuss /Take Action to Approve O'Malley Strand to conduct study to Join Brazos Water Authority and discuss water system if necessary.

Craig Kankel addressed the council and stated O'Malley Strand is helping us in our quest to find another water supply. Trying to find ground water is a challenge, it's not impossible. Drilling a well could be costly because of the numerous test holes. Looking to join the Brazos Water Authority where water is piped here from their treatment system using the Brazos River. Craig, Cindy, Mayor Weems and Gary Coker met with the BWA. O'Malley Strand put together a proposal for a study that will help the council make a good decision. The proposal for the study is \$7850.00. The bottom line is, right now we do not pay anything for our water.

The TCEQ regulations require for every water connection, the city has to provide .06 gallons per minute. Right now we are not at .06 gallons.

Ray Bailey made a motion to accept the proposal in the amount of \$7850.00 for O'Malley Strand to do a study with Brazos Water Authority.

Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6:22 pm / Short Recess

6:24 pm / All council members back in session.

B. Discuss / Take Action on Loan for Hamilton Valley Management (McKinney Manor Apts)

Paul Farmer with Hamilton Valley Management addressed council last month requesting support for rehab on McKinney Manor Apartments. They made an application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for funds. They are asking The City of Sweeny for a loan in the amount of \$26,900.00, not for construction. It will be a secured loan and paid off at the end of construction. The city will make 3% interest on this loan.

Dale Lemon made a motion to approve the resolution requested by Hamilton Valley Management and the loan request in the amount of \$26,900.00 with the language to be changed from "Letter of Credit" to "Certificate of Deposit" (CD). Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Discuss / Take Action on New Rates for trash collection (Waste Connections)

Adam Balogh spoke to council about a trash collection rate increase, from \$16.25 to \$16.63, plus tax. A .43 cent increase or a 2.31 % increase. This rate increase includes commercial too. Waste Connections hasn't had an increase since 2012.

Gary Coker made a motion to accept the new rate increase of 2.31%. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Discuss / Take Action to place a street light at Kids Campus / Owner Shawn Wagner.

Ms. Wagner addressed the council that as the owner she arrives early in the morning and leaves late at night to which both times are very dark. She is requesting a street light at the beginning of the driveway.

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve placing a street light on Old Main Rd at Kids Campus. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Discuss / Take Action to out for bids for debris Removal in a Natural Disaster.

Cindy King stated this is something we do each year before Hurricane season.

Gary Coker made a motion to authorize Cindy King to go out for bids for debris removal in a natural disaster. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

F. Discuss / Take Action on Selling FD Vehicle

Dale Lemon made a motion to authorize Cindy King to sell the old Crown Vic. from the Fire Dept. the best way she can. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

G. Discuss / Take Action to open three Police Department Accts

The Police Department needs to open 1) Training Account. 2). Forfeiture Account. 3). Seizure Account.

Dale Lemon made a motion to allow the Police Department to open three accounts. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

H. Discuss / Take Action on Resignation on Eran Jones from Planning and Zoning Committee and SEDC.

Ray Bailey made a motion to accept resignation from Eran Jones from Planning and Zoning Committee and SEDC. Dale Lemon seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

I. Discuss /Take Action to allow alcohol at BBQ Cook-off Section of Pride Day April 30-May 2, 2015.

Dale Lemon made a motion to allow alcohol at the BBQ Cook-off Section of Pride Day April 30-May 2, 2015. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J. Discuss / Take Action on Closing Ashley Wilson Rd for Pride Day Festivities.

Ray Bailey made a motion to close Ashley Wilson Rd for Pride Day Festivities on Friday May 1st at 5 pm thru Saturday May 2nd at midnight. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

K. Discuss / Take Action to Close City Hall Friday May 1, 2015 for Pride Day Festivities.

Ray Bailey made a motion to close City Hall Friday May 1, 2015 for Pride Day Festivities. Rachel Wells seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6:45 pm turn tape over.

6:46 pm back on record

L. Approve Resolutions:

1/ Opposing Senate Bill 343: To not have Home Rule Cities

Ray Bailey made a motion to approve opposing resolution Senate Bill 343. Change 1954 to 2000 on line three of the resolution. Add section two, to forward our resolution to the appropriate committees. Gary Coker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2/ Opposing House Bill 957 and Senate Bill 156: This bill restricts the amount of appraised value that can be increase each year from 8% to 5% of home owners.

Dale Lemon made a motion to not approve opposing House Bill 957 and Senate Bill 156. Gary Coker seconded. Rachel Wells yes. Jerry Phillips voted no. Ray Bailey abstained. Motion carries.

3/ Opposing House Bill 365 and Senate Bill 182: To lower roll back rate from 8% to 4%.

Gary Coker made a motion to approve opposing House Bill 365 and Senate Bill 182. Ray Bailey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

M. Proclamations:

1/ April 2015 Fair Housing Month

2/ American Red Cross

3/ Brazoria County Head Start

11. Reports of Advisory Boards and Commissions

12. Mayor, Council and Staff Reports

13. ANNOUCEMENTS:

Set special meeting for: Electrical Easement with Texas New Mexico Power and Sweeny
ISD on Hackberry Street for Baseball Field on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

14. Closed Executive Session:

OPEN MEETING:

15. Discussion and action from Executive Session:

16. Adjournment: 7:10 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2015

Reatta Minshew, City Secretary