

REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2010

Mayor Jeff Bearden called the Regular Meeting of the City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, and a quorum was declared present, with all members present.

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow, Travis Taylor and Phil McCuistion

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Attorney Trish Byars, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Public Works Director Bob Cochran, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Commissioner Dennis led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags, followed by the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bearden opened the meeting to Public Comment from those who had submitted Requests to Speak during Public Comment Forms.

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner McCuistion moved the following items, under the Consent Agenda are approved:

- A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, November 23, 2010, the Finance Meeting held on Monday, November 22, 2010 and the Main Street Advisory Board Meeting of December 6, 2010.
- B. Declaration of Surplus Equipment: 1997 Ford Crown Victoria, 2000 Ford Crown Victoria, and 2001 Ford Crown Victoria.
- C. Chapman Tree Grant Application in the amount of \$2,500 to plant 11 large pine trees in Block 21 at Eastview Cemetery.
- D. Financial Investment Report with interest earnings of \$8,303.41, and Vouchers totaling \$970,292.13 for November 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010.

Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU

Mayor Bearden issued a huge "Thank You" to citizen's who provided leadership and countless hours in making our city more festive during the holidays. These are the kind of people and the kind of activities that set Vernon apart. Mayor Bearden presented a letter of appreciation which read as follows:

"On behalf of the community, the Mayor and City Commission would like to express a sincere appreciation to (names listed below) for spreading joy by working diligently to refurbish and add to the decorations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. They are most certainly a thing to behold. Your hard work and dedication are appreciated by the City Commission and all citizens of Vernon."

Those citizens are:

Carolyn Holland	Bubba Edwards	Gerald Thiele
A.J. Brannon	Jim Gryseels	Martha Gryseels
Dew Westover	Tom Jablonski	Jan Byrd
Treva Tucker	Stanton Tucker	Glenna Bryant
Linda Stewart	Charles Stewart	Jerry Lou Schmoker
Darrel Wall		

'55 POCKET PART THANK YOU

Mayor Bearden issued a letter of appreciation to Donnie Wilson to acknowledge the work that he has done on the pocket parks in downtown Vernon.

Mayor Bearden acknowledged Gene and Joann Tyra for donating the land for the '55 Pocket Park, and issued a letter of appreciation for their donation.

DEMONSTRATION OF QUINT LADDER TRUCK

The meeting was recessed to the City Hall Parking Lot and Fire Chief Smead demonstrated the new Quint Ladder Truck recently acquired for the Fire Department.

The meeting was reconvened in City Commission Chambers at 6:52 pm.

WATER TANK CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Public Works Director Bob Cochran reported that the Strayhan Street tank is complete, and awaiting an engineering approval letter to close that project. The Odell tank is 90% complete, and will soon begin filling the tank to schedule testing. All projects are on schedule.

AQUATIC CENTER ENGINEERING REPORT

City Manager Grant reported that he had received draft plans for the aquatic center from the engineer and expects finished plans in about a week. He anticipates a bid opening approximately March 1 with a completion about August, 2011.

The plans include deductive alternates that will allow flexibility in the bidding process and decisions that will be based upon the funding available. Those include a 2nd slide on the slide tower, the additional pool area between slide landing and lap pool, themed water play piece at zero depth beach, and water slide and slide tower.

MAIN STREET PROJECT REPORT

City Manager Grant reported that he received 18 applications for the Main Street Director. An Executive Committee consisting of Bret McCormick, Carrie Hawkins and himself met and narrowed that list to 7 applicants to conduct phone interviews, and further narrow that to five applicants for live interviews along with Debra Farst, the Main Street Coordinator with the Texas Historical Commission, on December 27.

Mr. Grant was very impressed with the applicants. The Main Street Advisory Board consists of the following members:

Billy Talbot

Meg Heatly

Maurice Rosales

Sean Stockard

Gene Tyra

Joe Rogers

Cory Curtis

Matt Maurer

Carrie Hawkins

Bret McCormick

Misty Tyra

Russell Brownlow

Monica Wilkinson

IESI CONTRACT RENEWAL

City Manager Grant explained that we have two contracts with IESI; one for the transfer station that expires April, 2011, and the collections contract which expires in 2012. IESI has approached the City with a request to combine these two contracts. Points of interest in the proposed contract:

- IESI wants to change dumpsters to front load.
- The City wants to look at the cost to increase the residential fee enough to cover 2 dumps per year per customer at the transfer station.
- This contract has a surcharge for fuel costs.
- Need maximum age of vehicles on the street.
- This contract is for 10 years. That may be too long but it would lock in a price to some extent.
- Recycling is not addressed.
- Staff and Legal are reviewing the contract and may have more comments and questions.

Jeff Ash, from IESI, explained that the scales at the transfer station need repairs. IESI proposes to replace the scales and build a new scale house at a cost of about \$80,000.

He noted that front load dumpsters for businesses are the system wide norm, would allow business to lock their dumpsters to control trash flow, it will allow more control of costs, and improve appearance.

He is willing to schedule a demo for the front end dumpsters to make sure they will fit in some of the narrower alley ways.

He has seen several different systems to allow free dumping at the transfer station, and he will do more research.

Mr. Ash fielded several questions from the Commission concerning the front load dumpsters and trucks. Mayor Bearden referred all questions to City Manager Grant, and noted that we might schedule a demonstration in the future.

Mr. Grant requested the Commission give him guidance about where to proceed in negotiating a contract or bidding. Mayor Bearden instructed that since it was not an action item on the agenda, he should proceed with whatever preparations that he would make any way for preparing bid documents and reviewing contracts and bring it back to the City Commission when and if they need to make decisions.

PURCHASE OF SAND SPREADER

Public Works Director Cochran explained that staff is requesting approval of purchase of a Myer MDV-1044 Hydraulic Hopper V-Box Spreader with a 4.5 cu yard capacity. This new spreader will allow the operator to spread sand onto icy street intersections without having to constantly raise the dump bed up and down, in jerking motions, to knock the sand loose from the dump bed so that it goes down into the auger. This will improve the operators attention to all other surroundings, thus improving the safety level of an otherwise inherently hazardous work environment.

Staff recommends accepting the proposal from OEM Systems, LLC in the amount of \$7,197.97. Budgeted funds of \$5,000 will be used in addition to \$2,197.97 from the Street Department Budget.

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to approve the purchase from OEM Systems.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Mayor Bearden explained that according to the Government Code and City Charter, the Municipal Judge position is for a two year appointment. It also states that if a new appointment is not made within 90 days of the term expiration, the existing appointment is renewed. This has been the case since Delores Flores was appointed in December, 2004. Mayor Bearden invited Ms. Flores to address the Commission.

Ms. Flores thanked the Commission for allowing her to be the judge for the past six years, and requested reappointment for another two year term.

Tape #873

Commissioner Dennis made the motion not to approve appointment of Delores Flores as Municipal Judge.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion. Following discussion concerning Ms. Flores being able to reapply for the position as Municipal Judge, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

POLICE RADAR EQUIPMENT LEASE

Police Chief Tom Wilson requested approval of renewal of the lease of four stalker radars from Applied Concepts, Inc. at a cost of \$250.00 per month for 36 months. At the end of the lease, we can turn in these units and receive new models for the same cost per month. This item is budgeted, and includes installation. Stalker will also certify all employees on use of the radar.


Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve the radar lease.

Commissioner Brownlow seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

ADJOURN

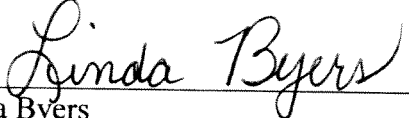
Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.



Jeff Bearden
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary