

**REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 23, 2008**

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

Present: Mayor Jeff Bearden

Commissioners: Jimmy Dennis, Russell Brownlow, Tra Cardwell and Phil McCuiston

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

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

**RECOGNITION OF TCEQ AWARD FOR WATER TESTING**

Mayor Bearden recognized the City of Vernon Water Department Staff of Public Works Director Bob Cochran;

Water Department Superintendent Alan Powell,  
Water Production Supervisor Robert Goodrum, and  
Water Distribution Supervisor David Templeton

For receiving the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 2008 Public Drinking Water Recognition Award for exceptional compliance with the Total Coliform Rule Requirements. To receive the award, a public water system must have no Total Coliform Rule violations and must be an active Public Water system for sixty (60) consecutive months.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Cardwell moved the following items under the Consent Agenda be approved:

- A. The minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, for approval.
- B. Vouchers – November 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008, for approval.
- C. Second and Final reading of Ordinance No. 1508 regulating operation of Peddlers, Itinerant Vendors and Street Merchants, for approval.
- D. A partial bill from Edgin, Parkman, Fleming & Fleming, PC for auditor services in the amount of \$5,000.00, for approval.

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

**SEWER LNIE PROJECT UPDATE**

Public Works Director Bob Cochran updated the Commission on the progress of the Southwest Sewer Line Project. All pipe and structures are complete on all three lines, and are awaiting testing and cleanup. Testing should be completed and the lines ready for public access by January 20, 2009.

**ACCEPT BUILDING FROM TYSON**

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to formally accept the building at 1306 Main Street from Tyson Foods, Inc.

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

The Mayor and City Commission will all sign a letter of appreciation to Tyson Foods.

**AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER TO SET MINIMUM BID FOR JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>  
AUCTION OF CLOSED FIRE STATION ON SAND ROAD**

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve the authority of the City Manager to set a minimum bid for the January 6<sup>th</sup> auction of the closed fire station on Sand Road.

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

**CONSIDER FURTHER OPTIONS REGARDING SALE OF OLD CITY HALL,  
1830 MAIN ST.**

City Manager Grant explained his concerns about the pool of bidders when advertising only locally, and discussed the possibility of using an online auction service. There is a substantial amount of sensitive records still stored in the building.

A records destruction service has been contacted. The records will be inventoried and those that can be destroyed will be sent to the records destruction company for shredding sometime in the next month.

There was also discussion about whether to include the parking lot North of the building in the sale.

Options were discussed, but no action was taken at this time.

**BROCK FARM LEASE**

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to approve lease of the Brock Farm of 52.3 acres to Matt Belew for a period of one year from this date at a rate of \$13.40 per acre.

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

**PARKS MASTER PLAN PURSUANT TO SUMMER GRANT APPLICATION**

Special Services Director Monica Wilkinson presented information on the timeline for preparing a master plan for the City of Vernon park system. Cities with city park master plans on file with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are eligible for more project priority points on outdoor recreation grant applications.

The plan needs to be submitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife no later than May 31, 2009 to qualify for the July 31, 2009 grant application deadline.

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve the timeline for public hearings, focus groups, user surveys and analysis as presented by Director Wilkinson.

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

**WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

City Manager Grant explained the progress and plans for Civic Plus to develop a City web site, and plans to secure participation by other interested local entities in a community web site.

Commissioner Brownlow made the motion to approve the use of Civic Plus for web site design and for the City Manager to proceed with a memorandum of understanding between other interested parties in a collaborative effort.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 870**

Staff is requesting approval of a resolution to submit an application to the North Texas Regional Planning Commission (NORTEX RPC) for a Solid Waste Grant for demolishing and disposing of the old swimming pool house and other structures at that same location.

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve Resolution no. 870.

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

**ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR ANNUAL SEAL COAT PROJECT**

Public Works Director Bob Cochran outlined the proposals received and the results of scoring of those proposals. The RFP committee composed of Mitch Grant, Johnny Turkett and Bob Cochran recommended Brandt Engineers Group, Ltd. for this project.

Commissioner McCuistion made the motion to approve Brandt Engineers Group, Ltd. for the 2009 Seal Coat Project.

Tape #830

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

**AMEND PERSONNEL POLICY FOR HOLIDAY PAY**

City Manager Grant outlined the amendment to the personnel policy that would separate the additional vacation pay that is received by the firemen, police officers on patrol and dispatchers, and make it a separate accrual for Holiday pay.

Commissioner Dennis made the motion to approve the change in the personnel policy.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 869**

Commissioner Cardwell made the motion to approve a resolution to amend the bylaws of the Business Development Corporation of Vernon to provide that service of a Director for eighteen months or longer will be considered a "term" for the purpose of the consecutive term limit in Article 3.03.


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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:20 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Bearden  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Byers  
City Secretary