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**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2015**

Mayor Joe Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Vernon City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, and a quorum was declared present.

Present: Mayor Joe Rogers

Commissioners: Danny McMahan, Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor, and Pat Bryant.

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, City Prosecutor Jonathan Whitsitt, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Tourism & Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Thomas informed the Commission that he was turning 2606 McKinney Street into the Town North Learning Resource Center, and asked for help from the Police and Fire Departments with programs during the Grand Opening on January 31.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Taylor moved the following items under the Consent Agenda are approved:

- A. Minutes: Attached are copies of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, a Special Meeting held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, a Special Meeting held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, a Special Meeting held on Monday, January 12, 2015 and Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday, December 15, 2014.
- B. Second Reading of Ordinance #1654 Authorizing The Collection Of Fees And Cost Recovery For Certain Emergency Response And Rescue Services Charges.
- C. Second Reading of Ordinance #1655 – Sale of Property at 1101 Strahan Street to Shelby Vaughn for \$700.
- D. Payment of Engineering Costs for Northeast Vernon Paving Project totaling \$10,000 to AMD Engineering (Budgeted Grant Match).
- E. Financial Investment Report, Vouchers, and Payroll & Benefit Expense. December 1, 2014 – December 30, 2014.

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

MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST

Mayor Rogers presented the annual Main Street Christmas Decoration Contest trophy to Forrest Cole with Phive'5.

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TOURISM QUARTERLY REPORT

Tourism & Main Street Director Kelleher brought the Commission up to date on the reorganization of Tourism and Visitor Services, Tourism Advisory Board Meetings and Tourism services activities.

Mr. Kelleher also reported his resignation effective mid-February to take a similar position in Rosenberg.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Police Chief Wilson presented the Racial Profiling Report with 1064 motor vehicle stops: 150 (14%) – African, 540 (50%) – Caucasian, 364 (34%) – Hispanic, 8 – Asian and 2 – Middle Eastern. There were 31 searches conducted with 8 of those having consent.

In the Police Department Annual Report, Chief Wilson reported 21,411 calls for service, 2181 crime investigated, 1547 traffic citations issued and 1608 warning tickets. There were 127 accidents investigated and 649 arrests. The Police Department received \$29,219 in federal and state grants.

RESOLUTION NO. 981

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (JAG)

Police Chief Wilson reported that this grant request is for a vehicle for a drug officer and equipment to analyze drugs immediately.

Commissioner McMahan made the motion to approve Resolution # 981 making application for Justice Assistance Grant for the Police Department.

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

BROCK FARM LEASE

City Manager Grant informed the Commission that we have received a bid of \$836.80 per year for five years from David Belew for the lease of the Brock Farm.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve a five year lease for Brock Farm to David Belew.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1656

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS, APPROVING THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY AT 2120 MAIDEN STREET AND 2431 VIOLET STREET, APPROVING THE SALES PRICE, AND REQUIRING THAT DELIVERY OF THE PROPERTY BE EXECUTED TO THE PERSON NAMED BELOW

Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson explained that Shelby Vaughn had submitted a bid of \$200 for 2120 Maiden and \$500 for 2431 Violet. She noted that both properties have residential structures in poor to fair condition. Approval is required from all of the taxing entities before these properties can be sold. She also noted that these structures could bring more if they were sold in an advertised bid.

Following discussion of the benefits of direct sale versus sealed bids, Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve Ordinance #1656 for Sale of Property at 2120 Maiden – to Shelby Vaughn for \$200 and the Sale of 2431 Violet – to Shelby Vaughn for \$300.

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

ORDER GENERAL ELECTION

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve the Order of General Election for the May 9, 2015 Election.

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

MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

City Manager Grant explained that we have three applications for this Board; Meredith Wright, Douglas Jeffrey IV, and Mark Farr Nash. With two open board appointments, each Commission member cast two written votes. The results of the voting were Meredith Wright – 5 votes; Douglas Jeffrey IV – 4 votes and Mark Farr Nash – 1 vote.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve appointment of Meredith Wright and Douglas Jeffrey IV to serve on the Main Street Advisory Board.

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

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve Mark Farr Nash as an alternate appointment to the Main Street Advisory Board.

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

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FACADE IMPROVEMENT MATCHING GRANT

Tourism & Main Street Director Kelleher explained that this Façade Improvement Grant was for improvements to the Leaps & Bounds building at 1600 Pease Street owned by Richard McLaughlin. The estimated project costs are \$14,500, and this grant would be for 50% or \$7,200. There are funds available in Fund 75.

Following discussion of the source of the funds and matching of grants, Commissioner Hinojosa made to motion to approve the award of a Façade Improvement Matching Grant to Richard McLaughlin, as recommended by the Main Street Advisory Board, in the not to exceed amount of \$ 7,250.00 for restoration work on his building at 1600 Pease Street, with the conditions described in the staff report.

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

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT & BEAUTIFICATION GRANT

Tourism & Main Street Director Kelleher explained that this Physical Improvement & Beautification Grant was for improvements to the Leaps & Bounds property other than the building at 1600 Pease Street owned by Richard McLaughlin. The estimated project costs are \$8,500, and this grant would be for 50% or \$4,250. There are funds available in Fund 75.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve the award of a Physical Improvement & Beautification Grant to Richard McLaughlin, as recommended by the Main Street Advisory Board, in the not to exceed amount of \$4,250.00 for restoration work on his building at 1600 Pease Street, with the conditions described in the staff report.

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

TOURISM FUNDS FOR WILBARGER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Tourism & Main Street Director Kelleher explained that the Tourism Advisory Board had recommended approval of \$15,000 for remaining work associated with the restoration of the Museum building and \$2,083 per month for ongoing costs of operating the museum, subject to annual review and recommendation by the Tourism Advisory Board. Other requirements recommended by the Board were:

- Funding agreement state that all funds for ongoing operation of the museum be subject to normal annual review and recommendation of the Tourism Advisory Board.
- The Museum and the Cary Living Trust must conduct an inventory and said inventory would be an addendum to the final agreement. Inventory can be conducted in written form, photos, video or another acceptable form.
- The Agreement should state that the Museum and Trust be permitted to remove memorabilia to storage and bring other memorabilia to show new and changing exhibits, but the new memorabilia be added to the inventory, and be kept and maintained as available for use in the museum for the term of the agreement.
- The final agreement shall be reviewed by the City Attorney and changed as recommended.

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City Prosecutor Whitsitt noted that the performance agreement is in a rough draft stage, but thinks that future City Commissions could not be bound for a ten year commitment. The Agreement needs to be reviewed each year.

There was discussion of the term of the agreement, operating costs, and the Hotel/Motel Funds Budget. Mayor Rogers allowed discussion from those present and Gerald Thiele presented a proposed budget for costs to get open and an operating budget as well as a report of funds already spent. Treva Tucker thinks that this Museum will be one of the greatest assets for the Main Street Program and the history of the city and county. Mr Thiele noted that the projected opening date is March 27.

Commissioner McMahan made the motion to approve the allocation of funds to the Wilbarger County Historical Museum as recommended by the Tourism Advisory Board, and to allocate these funds in a manner that is generally consistent with the terms of the attached draft Performance Agreement and Trust Agreement, and in a manner that is subject to the conditions outlined in the attached staff report.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion and noted that this is something that will be looked at yearly. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 982

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS, THAT AUTHORIZES THE CITY OF VERNON INVESTMENT POLICY AND PROVIDING FOR RECORDING AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Grant noted that there were not changes recommended to the current policy, and this is the annual review required by law.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve Policy Review and Resolution #982 approving Investment Policy for 2015.

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

DIRECTIVE TO STAFF REGARDING CITY MANAGER HIRING PROCESS

City Secretary Byers suggested to the Commission that they appoint a Committee to review the applications received and make recommendations to the entire Commission.

Commissioner McMahan made the motion to appoint a committee of City Secretary Byers, Finance Director Garmon, Community Development Director Wilkinson, Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Bryant to review applicants and report back to the Commission at the February 24th regular meeting.

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

APPLICATION TO TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

City Manager Grant explained that this was a complicated issue, but we need to get started on possible funding for replacing the water transmission line and other water projects.

Following discussion of costs of replacing the water transmission line by in-house labor versus contractors, Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve development of an application to the Texas Water Development Board for water projects.

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR TxCDBG APPLICATIONS

City Manager Grant explained that this is an additional grant requirement for Community Development Block Grant for the Lexington Street Water Line Project application for next year.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve a Citizen Participation Plan for the TxCDBG applications and projects.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to enter Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. under Government Code Section 551.072 – Deliberation concerning Real Property.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded that motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to resume regular session at 9:24 p.m.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded that motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve the agreement on the subject property with a six month option for \$6,000.

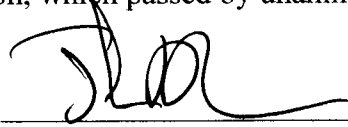
Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

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ADJOURN


Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

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



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary