

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 28, 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 Britt Ferguson.

Staff Present: City Manager Joseph Jarosek, City Attorney Jonathan Whitsitt, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kade Long, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Mayor Rogers led the group in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerald Thiele spoke of behalf of Don Wilson to encourage continued funding for downtown revitalization with money to be spent on physical improvements.

Willie King requested budget funds for beautification of North Vernon.

Pam Gosline, Chairman of Pride Committee requested support of a cleanup campaign.

Mike Maldonado spoke against changes of one-way traffic on Eagle Street near Central School. He does not think it will work.

Aldean Sims spoke against the Eagle Street change. He lives near there and does not think this will be a solution.

John Snow spoke against the Eagle Street one-way traffic. He is against the issue because does not think it would solve the problem. He suggested creating a drop off lane in the parking zone in front of school.

Terry Long, Principal at Central School stated that safety for the students is the number one priority. If Paradise Street was one-way in morning it would help alleviate part of the problem.

Molly Baldwin stated that citizens elected the commission to find solutions not perform miracles, and support for solvency is the only solution.

Jeri Kothe noted that Eastview Cemetery upkeep is horrible. Something needs to be done to improve appearances. Prisoners or community service might be needed to help. It is a respect issue and pride issue.

Don Aydelott, who is a rental property owner is concerned about property tax increase and appraisal values.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Minutes: Attached are copies of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015; and Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday, June 22, 2015.
- B. Purchase of Equipment Damaged by Lightning totaling \$27,577.04 to be Reimbursed by Insurance.
- C. Financial Investment Report, Vouchers, and Payroll & Benefit Expense. June 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1668

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS, APPROVING THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY AT 2005 CANAL STREET, 1411 EAGLE STREET AND 2400 MAIDEN STREET, APPROVING THE SALES PRICE, AND REQUIRING THAT DELIVERY OF THE PROPERTY BE EXECUTED TO THE PERSON NAMED BELOW

Community Development Director Wilkinson explained the change in the Ordinance from the first reading for the higher bid on the Canal Street property.

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 1668 – Sale of 2005 Canal Street, 1411 Eagle Street and 2400 Maiden Street.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1669

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING LACK OF PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR A PORTION OF ANTELOPE STREET'S RIGHT-OF-WAY; VACATING AND ABANDONING SAID PORTION OF ANTELOPE STREET'S RIGHT-OF-WAY; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEALING, SEVERABILITY, RECORDING AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Jarosek explained the new provision in the ordinance that determines the need for signal controlling a one-way street. Tyson has agreed to pay the cost of installation. The Fire Department and Police Department have approved the street width. If Tyson decides not to use this street, the street will not be closed.

Digital Recording on file

Commissioner McMahan made the motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1669 - Request from Tyson Prepared Foods, Inc. to partially close a portion of Antelope Street North of Mill Street and South of the BNSF Railroad.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 989

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VERNON AUTHORIZING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF DO NOT ENTER SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTING ROADWAY OF EAGLE STREET AND MARSHALL STREET, MAKING EAGLE STREET ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FROM PARADISE STREET TO MARSHALL STREET DURING SCHOOL HOURS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Commission discussed the concerns brought forth during public comment. Central School Principal Terry Long noted the safety issues. They would like to avoid three lanes of traffic on Paradise Street. She asks that safety of the students be put ahead of inconvenience to citizens.

During discussion, it was stated that the City would like to make this easier for everyone and Vernon ISD should do some more traffic studies before continuing. Various options were discussed, but no action was taken.

CHANGES IN THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL FOR POLICY ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE.

City Manager Jarosek explained that this modification to the language in the policy adopted at the June Regular City Commission Meeting prevents infringement on an employee's Constitutional right to engage in the political process in their off time.

Mayor Rogers stated that he would like to eliminate all Facebook pages except for one emergency page.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve changes in the Personnel Policy Manual for Policy on Political Activity and Social Media Use.

Commissioner McMahan seconded the motion, which passed by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Ferguson voting against.

FISCAL 2015-2016 BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Manager Jarosek outlined the preliminary Fiscal 2015-2016 Budget, which contains conservative estimates for revenues and expenditures. Revenues were estimated to remain constant with the exception of sales tax, which is forecasted \$50,000 lower. Administrative costs and transfers from the Utility Fund will continue to be refined during the budget process.

There are no significant program scope changes and no additional full time positions, but there is an increase for mowing by additional seasonal employees. The budget contains eighty-eight employees and funds the step and grade pay plan for merit increases.

Maintenance of the street system is budgeted at \$225,000. Repayment of the Employee Benefit Trust note and cost of escalating health care costs and workers compensation costs are also included.

There was discussion of the Effective Tax Rate and the Interest and Sinking tax rate. Mayor Rogers stated that he was against benefit increases at this time. Commissioner Hinojosa is against an I&S tax rate increase and Commissioner McMahan agrees with the Mayors leadership.

There was also discussion of the August 4 Special Commission Meeting for another budget workshop, and the use of community service workers and/or inmate workers for mowing and beautification. Mayor Rogers instructed adding more funds for mowing, cemetery and Main Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to enter Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. under Government Code Section 551.072 – Deliberation concerning Real Property.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to resume regular session at 8:49 p.m.

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

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no action following Executive Session.

ADJOURN

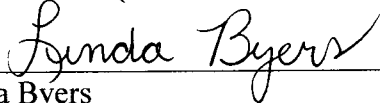
Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

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



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary