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**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 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, with Commissioner Travis Taylor absent.

Present: Mayor Joe Rogers

Commissioners: Ruben Hinojosa, and Britt Ferguson.

Staff Present: City Manager Joseph Jarosek, City Prosecutor Jonathan Whitsitt, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Marcus Smith, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Tourism Director Brandy McIntyre, Municipal Judge Lori O. Adams, 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

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015; and Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday, October 26, 2015.
- B. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1673 - Zoning Change from Southwest Rural Electric for a 2.58 acre Tract in the Southwest Corner of Highway 70 and Center Drive from General Residential (R-G) to Light Industrial (L-I).
- C. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1674 Authorizing Tree Trimming in City Right-Of-Way.
- D. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1675 - Sale of Tax Properties at 2600 St. James Street, 3204 Maiden Street, 3212 Maiden Street, 2400 Mesquite Street, 1219 Eagle Street, 2123 Pearl Street, 1021 Mansard Street, 2401 St. James Street, and 3019 Wheatley Street.
- E. Financial Investment Report, Vouchers, and Payroll & Benefit Expense. October 1, 2015 – October 31, 2015.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

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VERNON PRIDE COMMITTEE

Pride Committee Chairman Pam Gosline reported that the committee has begun recognizing the yard of the month; they are developing a website, and have a fundraiser planned after the first of the year. The committee started with seven people and has grown to over twenty.

Molly Jeffries reported on the adopt-a-window project. Owners agreed to let volunteer groups and organizations adopt windows to decorate. Groups picked some type of history in Vernon. Saint Paul School, the Boys & Girls Club, the High School Avid Class, the Middle School Art Class, Amy Taylor, and Rachel Schur all decorated windows. The community is willing and eager to help. There is a planned window stroll during the Thanksgiving Day Christmas lighting ceremony.

CITY – COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

City Manager Jarosek noted that Tracy Lynn Taylor has been appointed to serve on the City/County Committee for Fire Protection Services.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve appointment of a Tracy Lynn Taylor to participate on the City/County Committee for Fire Protection Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 991

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS DESCRIBED HEREIN ARE EACH DANGEROUS STRUCTURES AND A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

City Manager Jarosek and Community Development Director Wilkinson explained that these seven properties (1304 Strahan Street, 2329 Pease Street, 2311 Dean Street, 3710 Lorance Street, 1319 Mesquite Street, 1410 Paradise Street, and 1013 Houston Street) have been determined dangerous and a hearing on condemnation will be held at the December 15 City Commission Meeting.

Director Wilkinson explained the process of condemnation.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve Resolution No. 991 calling for a public hearing to determine whether certain structures are dangerous structures and a public nuisance.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

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SALE OF WATER FOR CONSTRUCTION USE

City Manager Jarosek explained that Blattner Energy will need water for dust control during construction of wind energy towers. Jeremy Moore from Blattner Energy explained that the company will use approximately 10 mil gallons and hope to begin construction next spring.

City Manager Jarosek explained that the contract would include a clause to allow the City an out if needed for adverse impact on the water supply. Potable water will be used from a metered fire hydrant and rates will be determined by existing ordinance.

City Prosecutor Whitsitt noted that there will need to be a contract.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve sale of water to Blattner Energy for construction use.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF SUBMERSIBLE PUMP

City Manager Jarosek explained that a six inch submersible pump had failed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is not cost effective to repair the old pump. Staff recommends purchase of a new pump from Xylem Water Solutions at a cost of \$12,697.74.

Commissioner Ferguson made the motion to approve emergency purchase of submersible pump at Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of \$12,697.74.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

PURCHASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROTECTIVE SUITS

City Manager Jarosek explained that the Fire Department would replace eighteen hazardous materials protective suits. This purchase will not affect the budget because it is pass-through funds of a grant from the Governor's Office.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve purchase of hazardous materials protective suits with grant funds totaling \$27,451.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

CHANGING YIELD SIGN TO STOP SIGN

City Manager Jarosek explained that the Public Works Department wants to change the yield sign to a stop sign at the intersection of Bentley Street and Bacon Street for the safety of school children because the school zone has been extended.

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Commissioner Ferguson made the motion to approve changing Yield Sign to Stop Sign at the intersection of Bentley Street and Bacon Street.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

STREET CLOSURE FOR LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

Commissioner Ferguson made the motion to approve closure of Cumberland St. between Main Street and Pease Street for the Lighted Christmas Parade activities on December 12.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

STREET CLOSURE FOR NORTH VERNON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Reverend Robert Thomas explained their request for street closure and noted that the activities would start around 6 pm. He also requested a fire truck for Santa Clause.

Commissioner Ferguson made the motion to approve closing Wanderer Street and Houston Street around Christine Lyday Park on December 19 for North Vernon Christmas Celebration.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

CONTRACT FOR AMBULANCE RECOVERY FEES

City Manager Jarosek explained that additional funds for ambulance transport services are available through the Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (TASPP), which offers governmental ambulance providers in Texas the opportunity to generate additional revenue to offset losses that are incurred related to Medicaid and uninsured patient transports. These are Federal pass-through funds and an additional \$80,000 in revenue is anticipated. McKesson will retain twenty percent of any amount recovered as well as an up-front fee of \$5,500. This is a three year contract.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve contract for Ambulance Recovery Fees from PST Services, Inc – a McKesson Company.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT WITH WARRANT ROUNDUP

City Manager Jarosek noted that Warrant Roundup has not generated the additional revenue as claimed and has had problems with cooperation through our municipal court. Municipal Judge Adams joined in this request and encouraged a new contract with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.

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Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve cancellation of contract with Warrant Roundup for collection of Municipal Court fines.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE CONTRACT FOR COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL COURT FINES

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve contract with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P. for collection of Municipal Court fines.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL GOALS

City Manager Jarosek noted that the City has no guidelines in place for long-term planning. The City has been in recovery mode and needs to continue along that path, but we need to establish a framework/model for the future.

This instrument will assist with the budgeting process. Long-Term Financial goals need to be speaking more in specifics to establish financial goals about where we would like to be in the future.

The City needs to review the Community Plan as a step in deciding future financial goals.

The Capital Improvement Plan will be used to rank order for future improvements and update dollar values. We will also review findings of the financial audit after it is presented.

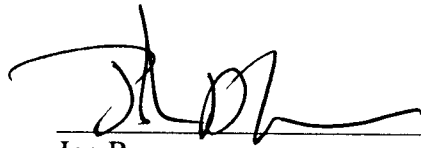
Staff will need input from all sides and will need to hear from commission about their priorities.

If we have a plan – we will know how to get to our goals.

ADJOURN

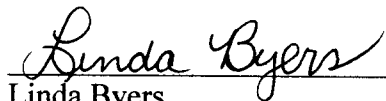
Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary