

MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
City of Stephenville - City Council
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2006– 5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Stephenville, Texas, convened on August 15, 2006, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 298 West Washington Street, for the purpose of a Regular Business Meeting, with the meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving the date, time, place and subject thereof, having been posted as prescribed by Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, with the following members present, to wit:

Mayor	:	Rusty Jergins
Mayor Pro-Tem	:	Todd McEvoy
Council members	:	Malcolm L. Cross Nancy Hunter Andrew Johnson Alan Nash Mark Murphy Barry Ratliff
Absent	:	Cyndi Godwin
Others Attending	:	Mark A. Kaiser, City Administrator Randy Thomas, City Attorney Cindy L. Stafford, City Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Stephenville City Council was called to order at 5:31 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2006, by Mayor Rusty Jergins who declared a quorum present.

II. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

Mayor Jergins opened the public hearing.

Police Officer Brandon Boen spoke on behalf of the Stephenville Police Officers Association. He thanked the council for listening and for allowing input into the budget process. He reminded council of comments made last year that “this [FY06/07] will be the year that we will be taken care of”. Boen said that now they are being told there’s not enough money in the budget “to get the pay increase that, more or less, we were told that we would get”. He said that many in the police department have been researching the tax rates of other cities and that Stephenville’s tax base will not support the pay increase for the police department. Boen asked the council to consider an increase in the tax rate to help fund a pay plan for the Stephenville Police Department. Boen stated, “If the council does not take the initiative to correct this pay problem that we have, we want to ask for the council’s support if we decide to take it to the taxpayers of the city and ask for their support in raising police officer’s

salaries.” Boen added that it’s hard to maintain and attract quality officers without competitive pay. In closing, Boen said that the officers do not believe that what they are asking for is excessive. He said, “The integrity and the reputation of the City of Stephenville starts with the police department and its officers and the services they provide to its citizens. Without quality police officers, the city suffers, and the reputation of the city is compromised. We ask that the council support our police department and its officers and fund our pay plan that allows up to remain competitive and retain quality officers and help continue providing a safe place for our current and future citizens of Stephenville.”

Billy Mobley, 113 Sandra Palmer, Stephenville, Texas, spoke to the council concerning “\$100,000 that has been budgeted to study a multi-purpose facility.” He told the council that he “has been there in 1986” when a similar proposal went to the voters and they turned it down. He said that in his opinion, to spend this money is “throwing it to the wind”.

Dr. Joe Cude, 1355 Lydia, Stephenville, Texas, said he serves on the Stephenville Senior Citizens Advisory Board and an advisory committee of the North Central Texas Council of Government, that deals with “passed down federal funds for the aging”. Cude asked the council to reconsider and appropriate additional funds for the Meals on Wheels program.

Jake Dameron, Branch Manager of The Transit System, thanked council for its support. He reported that they transport approximately 1,000 people per month, and that over 60% of those transported are elderly, and the numbers are going up. He said that he would appreciate any additional monies the council could fund for this program.

Melissa Seabourn, 1245 Groesbeck, Stephenville, Texas, stated that she is a member of the Library Advisory Board. She advised that some of the statistical information concerning the library is missing from the “cultural and recreational” section of the budget.

Mayor Jergins closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

III. PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE TAX RATE FOR 2006

Mark Kaiser reported that the proposed tax rate is \$0.4650. The breakdown of this rate is \$0.3998 for the general fund/maintenance and operations, and \$0.0652 for debt rate. Effective tax rate is calculated at \$0.4264, and the rollback rate is \$0.4680.

Mayor Jergins opened the public hearing. No one spoke during the public hearing. Mayor Jergins closed the public hearing.

IV. CONSIDER LIBRARY FEES

Kaiser advised the council that, as a result of council action at its last meeting, if library fees are imposed for city residents, this would result in the library losing its state accreditation and would jeopardize grant funding for the library.

Council members discussed what fee should be assessed for library patrons who live outside the city. Following discussion, Mayor Jergins announced that a consensus of the council favors charging a fee of \$15.

V. CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION No. 2006-13 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Mike Duran with Traylor & Associates, Inc. addressed the council and explained that this grant application is for first-time sewer improvements and project engineering in the area of the College Farm Road.

MOTION by Todd McEvoy, second by Barry Ratliff, to adopt Resolution No. 2006-13. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

VI. CONSIDER REQUEST FROM RON QUARLES CONCERNING VIOLATION OF ZONING ORDINANCE

Ron Quarles, dba Lightnin's Body Shop, appeared before the council requesting a hearing and determination of the legality of the notice of violation of the Zoning Ordinance and demand letter from the Director of Community Services to abandon the business and remove the automobiles from subject property—Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 47, City Addition.

Mark Kaiser told the council that in an effort to clean up the city, compliance with city ordinances and zoning regulations is strongly encouraged. Kaiser explained that staff is committed to working with violators to allow them reasonable time and possible extensions in order to bring conditions into compliance.

City Attorney, Randy Thomas, advised the council that Mr. Quarles is definitely not in compliance with B-3 zoning requirements and does not have an occupancy permit or a building permit. Thomas said that he is continuing to look at the situation along with staff.

Mayor Jergins stated that since Quarles' question of legality has been answered, and staff has committed to working with Quarles to the conclusion of the situation; no further action is necessary at this time.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION. At 7:04 p.m. Mayor Jergins recessed the open portion of the meeting, and council went into executive session in compliance with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Law, Subchapter D, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, in accordance with, Sec. 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property.

- **Drainage Easement across Lots 11 and 14, Block 72, City Addition**

Council reconvened in open session at 7:20 p.m.

VIII. ACTION TAKEN ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION (if necessary)

MOTION by Andrew Johnson, second by Todd McEvoy, to authorize staff to enter into contract for drainage easement set out on pages 16-19 of the agenda packet, at a cost not to exceed \$2.00 per linear foot. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

IX. ADJOURN

MOTION by Todd McEvoy, second by Barry Ratliff, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote at 7:20 p.m.

Russell E. Jergins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy L. Stafford, City Secretary