

MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
City of Stephenville - City Council
TUESDAY, April 1, 2008, 5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Stephenville, Texas, convened on April 1, 2008, 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	:	Pat Shelbourne Malcolm L. Cross Nancy Hunter Andrew Johnson Alan Nash Mark Murphy Barry Ratliff
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 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008.

II. Citizen's General Discussion. Marcy Tanter, 811 North Lydia, Stephenville, requested the following comments be entered into the minutes of this meeting:

"For a few years now, I have been asking you to put sidewalks along Frey Street where children walk to Gilbert and Henderson almost daily. Tonight you are considering spending \$500,000 to extend a road that would help to entice a multi-billion dollar corporation to build a place of business in Stephenville whose annual income is, no doubt, far greater than the revenue generated by the children who walk to school down Frey street. If you see your way clear to spending taxpayer money as an incentive for the multibillion dollar corporation to build a business that may or may not do well here, I hope that you will also see your way clear to allocating at least \$500,000 in the upcoming budget to put sidewalks along Frey street that will definitely ensure the safety of our city's children, whose parents pay the taxes that generate the funds that shore up the city's bank account—the bank account from which you will take \$500,000 to extend a road for the sole reason that a multibillion dollar corporation has asked you to. Thank you. Marcy Tanter"

Ken Harris introduced himself as the new Area Manager for Oncor Electric Delivery.

III. Fire Department Annual Report, Jimmy Chew, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Jimmy Chew referred to the following statistics in making his annual report.

STAFF REPORT				
	2007	2006	2005	2004
Total number of runs	1772	1576	1526	1368
Fire responses	235	296	235	185
EMS responses	1537	1280	1291	1183
EMS billed calls	1020	827	880	708
Aid given to other fire departments	20	47	20	
Aid received from other fire departments	4	3	1	
Training for paid personnel:				
Total fire training hours	2746	2419	1347	1486.5
Average training hours per firefighter	114.42	100.79	53.88	59.46
Total EMS training hours	903	1100	1196	988
Average EMS hours per firefighter	37.63	45.83	47.84	39.52
Total training hours for paid personnel	3649	3519	2543	2474.5
Training for volunteers:				
Total volunteer training hours	981	1070	596.6	408
Average training hours per volunteer firefighter	61.3	59.5	31.4	25.5
Number of time volunteer manpower used	128	113	75	24
Public education contacts	2229	1268		
Fire inspections completed	327	99	109	132

Chew praised the “Stephenville Super Town Fire Clowns”, which is a new public education program targeted at kindergarten through fifth grade students. This is an interactive program, which has been very successful.

MOTION by Nancy Hunter, second by Barry Ratliff, to accept the Annual Fire Department Report. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT—Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Lowe’s Home Center, Inc.

Alan Nash, Chairman, reported that the committee recommends approval of the memorandum of understanding with Lowe’s Home Center, Inc. which would authorize sales tax rebates to Lowe’s of up to \$500,000 as the city’s portion in the construction of the Wolfe Nursery road improvements.

Mark Kaiser recognized Jennings Gray, ROI Consultants, LLC; Dwayne Blackman, the real estate construction manager in this area; and Scott Mann with Adams Engineering. Gray offered to answer any questions concerning this matter.

Alan Nix, 113 Ben Hogan, Stephenville, acknowledged that the council is looking at a large corporation that is considering coming to Stephenville that has a potential to be good for the city. At the same time, the council must weigh the cost benefit of utilizing tax dollars to help this corporation establish their business in Stephenville. Nix said that although he had no hard facts, he suspicions that a large amount of their [Lowe's] sales will come from existing businesses who already have employees, are paying sales tax, and are good citizens. Nix said these businesses will suffer if Lowe's comes to Stephenville. Nix said, "I don't think it's our responsibility as citizens or yours as the council to prohibit them from coming. At the same time, I don't think it's our responsibility to subsidize them either, and I think that's the dilemma y'all face. I hope you will consider as you make your decision tonight, the businesses that are here have been here for many years intend to continue doing business here. There are many businesses in this town that they [Lowe's] will impact. Please consider them as you make your decision tonight."

Chris Gifford, 980 North Lydia, Stephenville, pointed out some of the provisions from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, specifically requiring a developer to extend Wolfe Nursery Road even if the city did not participate. He made additional comments concerning economic development as outlined in the comprehensive plan.

MOTION by Barry Ratliff, second by Todd McEvoy, to approve the memorandum of understanding, and that it be for one percent city sales tax up to \$500,000, not to exceed half of the construction costs of Wolfe Nursery Road with the same construction materials, or better, that it already is. MOTION CARRIED by a 6-2 vote.

V. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Employee Benefits Package Including Bid Award for Health Insurance

B. Consider Adopting Resolution No. 2008-05 Creating a Non-Profit Trust for the Procurement, Management and Maintenance of Group Health, Accident, Dental and Life Insurance, Disability Benefits and Other Health Benefits for the Employees of the City of Stephenville, Texas

MOTION by Nancy Hunter, second by Todd McEvoy, to accept Resolution No. 2008-05 Creating a Non-Profit Trust for the Procurement, Management and Maintenance of Group Health, Accident, Dental and Life Insurance, Disability Benefits and Other Health Benefits for the Employees of the City of Stephenville, Texas.

MOTION to amend the motion by changing the Trustees from "the Mayor, who shall be the President of this Trust, Mayor Pro-tem, who shall be the Vice President of this Trust and one other Councilman to be appointed by the President at the annual meeting of this Trust, who shall be Secretary of this Trust" to include all members of the city council as trustees. This amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote. Mayor Jergins recessed the council meeting at 6:36 p.m. so that council members could convene in session of the Employee Benefit Trust.

The city council reconvened in open session at 6:45 p.m.

MOTION by Nancy Hunter, second by Barry Ratliff, to authorize funding of \$355.00 per employee per month for Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan D4A and \$14.60 per employee per month for dental insurance with Assurant. MOTION CARRIED.

Mark Kaiser recognized Robin Breezy, Blue Cross Blue Shield representative; Terry Hale, City-County Benefits; and Don Crook and Mark Stewart, Combined Benefits Group, Section 125 Administrators.

MOTION by Nancy Hunter, second by Barry Ratliff, to award the bid to Combined Benefits Group for voluntary benefits package utilizing American Public Life for cancer; American General, accident; National Union, heart/stroke; Colonial, medical gap; Texas Life, permanent life; and Colonial, short-term disability. MOTION CARRIED.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT—Consider Approval of Contract with Mike Pietsch, P.E. Consulting Services for Phases 2 and 3 of the ISO Study

Chairman Barry Ratliff reported that Mike Pietsch, P.E. Consulting Service had conducted Phase 1 of a three-phase project to study the feasibility of improving the City of Stephenville's ISO Public Protection Classification. MOTION by Barry Ratliff, second by Mark Murphy, to fund Phases 2 and 3 of the project for a cost not to exceed \$9,100.00. MOTION CARRIED.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Barry Ratliff requested Items B.3. and C. be removed from the Consent Agenda. MOTION by Mark Murphy, second by Barry Ratliff, to approve Items A., B.1., and B.2. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

A. Approve Minutes

1. **Regular Council Meeting on March 4, 2008**
2. **Special Council Meeting on March 11, 2008**

B. Bid Awards

1. **Storm Water Drainage Methodist Branch Phase II**
2. **Ambulance**
3. **2008 Street Renovation**

C. Local Project Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT for Bosque River Trail and Resolution No. 2008-06

Following questions concerning the 2008 street renovation program and the Bosque River Trail, there was a MOTION by Barry Ratliff, second by Nancy Hunter, to approve Items B.3. and C. MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

Ayes: Council members Shelbourne, Cross, Johnson, Hunter, Nash, Murphy, and Ratliff.

Nays: Mayor Pro-Tem McEvoy.

VIII. Comments by City Administrator

The concession stand/restroom at City Park should be completed the first part of May. The city will be partnering with Bruner Motors and Texas Rangers with special events celebrating opening day for our baseball program at the park.

Committee work session will be held on April 15, and mid-year budget work session on April 22.

The tunnel project portion of the Storm Water Drainage, Methodist Branch, Phase I, will be completed in May.

IX. Comments by Council Members

Two candidate forum opportunities are scheduled. The Stephenville Police Officers' Association will host one on April 17, and the Stephenville Empire-Tribune and Chamber of Commerce will host one on April 24.

X. Adjourn

MOTION by Todd McEvoy, second by Barry Ratliff, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote at 7:19 p.m.

Russell E. Jergins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy L. Stafford, City Secretary