

MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
City of Stephenville - City Council
Tuesday, August 19, 2008, 5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Stephenville, Texas, convened on August 19, 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	:	Nancy Hunter
Mayor Pro-Tem	:	Malcolm Cross
Council members	:	Pat Shelbourne Russ McDanel Alan Nash Alan Nix Mark Murphy Scott Evans
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 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2008.

- II. **Consider Approval of Order of Election Calling an Election to Reduce the Size of the Council for November 4, 2008**

Former Stephenville Mayors Rusty Jergins, Don Jones, John Moser, George Swearingen, and J. Louis Evans together with former Stephenville Councilmembers Todd McEvoy, and Perry Elliott addressed the council requesting approval of calling an election to reduce the size of the council for the November 4, 2008 election. These former city officials believe that an eight-member council is too large for the number of issues facing the city and serves a hardship for citizens having to contact so many councilmembers. Statistics from the Texas Municipal League reflect that of its 1,211 member cities, 841 (69%) have a five-member council and 166 (83%) have a six-member council while only 18 cities have an eight-member council, with 7 of those cities having a population under 20,000. They asked the council to let the citizens make the decision concerning a reduction of councilmembers. In a written statement, they maintain that "today's world demands that decisions be handled expeditiously in order to not deprive our citizens the services to which they are entitled, or to meet the changing monetary market."

MOTION by Scott Evans, second by Alan Nash, to call a charter amendment election to reduce the council size from eight to six by adopting Ordinance No. 2008-18. MOTION FAILED by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cross, Nash, and Evans.

Nays: Councilmembers Shelbourne, McDanel, Nix, and Murphy.

III. Public Hearing on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Mayor Hunter opened a public hearing.

James Gresham spoke on behalf of the Stephenville Police Officers Association. He reminded the council that two years ago when he addressed the council he had warned them of "the storm" that was coming. Gresham said, "Today I am here to tell you that the storm is here." Gresham referred to attrition levels and pay levels within the police department. He said that it has only gotten worse in the last two years. In the last year alone, the department has lost two officers and are about to lose one more to higher paying jobs. Gresham cited situations when staffing was critical, and our department had to depend on other agencies for backup. Gresham said, "We depend upon Tarleton State University and the Sheriff's Office for backup at the pleasure of their chief and their administration." Gresham added that our department is not attracting quality applicants because of the pay. He said that patrol has not been fully staffed for nine months. He closed by saying "The storm has arrived and we are at the point of diminishing returns."

Mayor Hunter closed the public hearing.

IV. Consider the Time, Date and Place of a Public Hearing on the Tax Rate for 2008

MOTION by Alan Nix, second by Russ McDanel, to hold a public hearing on the tax rate for 2008 at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, in the council chambers in City Hall, 298 West Washington Street, Stephenville, Texas. MOTION CARRIED.

V. Consider Approval of Bid Award for 2007-2008 Utility Improvements

MOTION by Alan Nix, second by Mark Murphy, to award the bid for 2007-2008 Utility Improvements Project to B&L Construction Company in the amount of \$494,966.50. MOTION CARRIED

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION. At 6:44 p.m., Mayor Hunter 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.

- A. Contract on Lot 15, Block 1, Green Acres Addition, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas**
- B. Sanitary Sewer Easement Containing 0.6605 acre out of the Jarrett Menefee Survey, A-520, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas**
- C. Sanitary Sewer Easement Containing 0.406 acre out of the Jarrett Menefee Survey, A-520, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas**

The council reconvened in regular session at 7:19 p.m.

VII. Action Taken on Matters Discussed in Executive Session (if necessary)

MOTION by Alan Nix, second by Scott Evans, to approve the contract on Lot 15, Block 1, Green Acres Addition, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas. MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. Adjourn

MOTION by Pat Shelbourne, second by Alan NIX, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote at 7:20 p.m.

Nancy A. Hunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy L. Stafford, City Secretary