

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

City of Stephenville - City Council

Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Stephenville, Texas, convened on May 12, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the Training Room at City Hall, 298 West Washington Street, for the purpose of a Special Council 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 A. Hunter
Mayor Pro-Tem	:	Malcolm L. Cross
Council members	:	Pat Shelbourne Donald L. Zelman Russ McDanel Alan Nash Alan Nix Scott Evans
Absent	:	Mark Murphy
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, May 12, 2009 by Mayor Nancy Hunter.

II. Canvass Election Results of May 9, 2009 City Election and Consider Passing Resolution No. 2009-08

Mayor Hunter appointed Russ McDanel, Scott Evans, Alan Nix, as the Canvass Committee with Malcolm Cross to serve as chairman. The committee convened to canvass the votes from the May 9, 2009 election. Malcolm Cross read the results as reflected on the attached resolution.

MOTION by Malcolm Cross, second by Alan Nix, to approve Resolution 2009-08. MOTION CARRIED.

III. Recognize Outgoing Council Members

Mayor Hunter made the following comments in recognizing the outgoing council members: "Mark Murphy is unable to be with us this evening. He has another commitment, but I would still like to recognize his four years of service to the citizens of Stephenville. Since being elected to the city council in 2005, Mark Murphy has represented his constituents with vigor and passion. Mark has contributed to the council on a multitude of issues, given his expertise as a chemist. We may not always vote the same way, or agree on how best to handle a situation; but I appreciate his service and dedication for our great city. I thank you, Mr. Murphy, for your work as chairman of the Public Health and Safety Committee and for your fervent efforts to ensure the health and safety of our citizens who remained a top priority."

“Pat Shelbourne brought a lot to the City of Stephenville when he moved here. Pat has shared insight and knowledge gained by years as a school administrator. He understands the complexities of how multi-level organizations work. He has shared financial insight with this body and has proved a great deal of leadership as chairman of the Personnel Committee. I feel fortunate to have served with him and learned from him during his two years on the city council. Mr. Shelbourne has served the citizens of Stephenville well, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. I’d like to present you with this plaque, which read, ‘In grateful appreciation for your dedication and service to the City of Stephenville City Council Member 2007-2009.’”

Pat Shelbourne thanked the citizens for electing him to council. He said that when he was elected, he had no intention of moving from Stephenville, but he and his wife will soon be moving closer to their children and grandchildren. He said he feels honored to have been elected and has enjoyed working with the council. He congratulated the newly elected council members. He said it’s been a wonderful time for him as he’s gotten to know the staff and Mr. Kaiser very well and they are just great people to work with. Thank you all.

IV. Oath of Office of Newly Elected Council Members

City Secretary, Cindy Stafford, administered the oath of office to Joe Cude, Place 1; Don Zelman, Place 3; Alan Nash, Place 5; and Martha Cashon, Place 7.

Mayor Hunter gave each of the newly elected council members an opportunity to speak.

Joe Cude said that he would work hard for what is best for Stephenville. He said he appreciated all the people who voted for him.

Don Zelman said that he is delighted to be re-elected to his seat and looks forward to working on the council for the next two years.

Alan Nash read a prepared statement, as follows:

“Mayor, Colleagues, City Staff, and members of the gallery,

“This is a happy day for me. I thought it would be difficult to top the energy and anticipation that I experienced when elected for the first time four years ago. But winning this re-election bid tops it. Four years ago I ran for an open seat, as a somewhat unknown quantity. This time around, there was a very public record for the voters to scrutinize, and certain people who were very determined to replace me. When this began two months ago, the outpouring of enthusiastic support stunned me—in a good way. My hurt feelings over drawing an opponent went away quickly as I was buoyed with daily requests for yard signs from friends and strangers alike. I ran out three times and finally had to make the fiscally-conservative decision to quit buying signs and just politely thank those who requested them in the end.

"I owe the joy and excitement that I feel today to people who have blessed me far more than I deserve. As I walked the old neighborhoods of this town, I was struck over and over by how many people answered the door, learned my name, and said, "You are Mike's boy, right? Are you Laura's son? Yes, ma'am. You don't need to ask me Of course you got my vote." My parents give me name that not only looks good in blue on a white sign, but bring with it my parents' reputation in this community for integrity, decency, and just being good folks.

"And my little sister and brother-in-law mean the world to me. They pumped me up when I was discouraged and unmotivated, and sister worked for me like a soldier. She was more determined for me to win than even I was. After the vote was announced Saturday, one of my sister's friends sent me an *exasperated* e-mail, saying: 'Congratulations. Your sister was a force to survive the way she campaigned for you.'

"I am also blessed with a core group of friends who are like family to me. In small town politics, there is a big difference in quality between the advice and effort of those who seek to use you out of spite for your opponent or to carry out a personal agenda, and those—*like my friends*—who offer help and sound advice because they care about and believe in you. My friends provided a jolt of enthusiasm in times of worry, and were stern taskmasters in times of complacency. I say this not with boastfulness, but with gratitude: I have the most loyal, most devoted, most talented friends.

"My record of service and my vision for the future have been no secret. During this campaign, we didn't hide behind vague slogans. We put the record out there—and I have not been quiet over the last four years about my principles. I have been an advocate for fiscal restraint in good and bad times, a supporter of beefed up public infrastructure, and open government within this chamber. During the campaign I was positive about what this city government has been doing, and candid about both past failures and future challenges.

"Apparently the voters respond to substance. I am proud of the *broad-based* support that we received. Driving around town, you could see Nash signs on Dodge Street, and on Azalea. You could see Nash signs on First Street, and on Highland View. And, the south end of Lydia Street was covered up with blue and white signs.

"I received financial contributions from professionals like accountants and lawyers, folks who work hard for wages in local industry, as well as retirees on fixed incomes. I have to also mention my young friends—the coffee house baristas, the college students, the young workers who worked their tails off to not only register their friends, but *actually turned them out* to vote for me. They believe in our *common sense* principles of good stewardship, strong oversight, and government that does what it says and explains what it does.

"I have to mention one vote in particular that moved me like no other. A young woman named Virginia was naturalized as a U. S. citizen in March, rushed to send in her voter registration card, and turned out to vote for us in this election. I am proud and humbled to be the recipient of her first vote as an American citizen.

"I congratulate my colleagues who won election Saturday night. I thank the existing members for their service, and I pledge to work hard with them and our fine city staff to improve our city in tangible and long-lasting ways.

"Thank you for indulging me for a little while on this happy day for me."

Martha Cashon said that it is an honor for her to be here. She said that she is very excited and thrilled to have this opportunity. She thanked those who supported her, specifically her family and her four-year-old daughter, Kenna. Cashon said she looks forward to working with the council, mayor, and city staff.

V. Adjourn

Motion by Don Zelman, second by Alan Nash, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried at 5:48 p.m.

Nancy A. Hunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy L. Stafford, City Secretary