

**WHITE OAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WHITE OAK CITY HALL
OCTOBER 11, 2011
6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT : Mayor Rick May, Mayor Pro-Tem Barbara Ray, Kyle Kutch, Charlie Owens, Kelly Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT : Lance Noll

STAFF PRESENT : Charlie Smith, Sherry Roberts, Debbie Sadler, Terry Roach, Jim Nall, Nate Holder, Billy Morgan, Chad Walls, Lewis Reavis, Bill McBride

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor May called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Councilmember Kutch led the invocation and Mayor May led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider and/or approve payment of bills.
- B. Consider and/or approve City Council minutes from September 13, 2011
- C. Consider and/or approve WOEDCO minutes from August 23, 2011

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Kutch. Carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

PROCLAMATION recognizing October 2011 as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

Mayor May read the proclamation to Shannon Trest from the Women's Center of East Texas. Ms. Trest stated she appreciated everything the police department does to help the center.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE Resolution No. 2011-06 supporting the display of the national motto "In God We Trust" in the White Oak council chambers in a prominent location above the seal.

City Coordinator Charlie Smith explained this is a movement that started in California and several cities in our area have approved this resolution. Mr. Smith asked the council if they would like for him to bring them ideas for placement but the council told him they trust him to choose a form and placement for the motto.

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Kutch, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ray. Carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE Ordinance No. 2011-11 amending Chapter 82, Article II, section 82-46(b), (c), & Section 82-49 of the Code of Ordinances by amending the present water rates for the municipal water service; prescribing and fixing new water rates, water tap fees, sewer tap fees, and water meter deposits to be charged by the City of White Oak water department for water service and connection to residential and commercial consumers.

Public Works Superintendent Nate Holder gave the Council a presentation regarding the current and proposed amounts for short and long water and sewer tap fees. The comparison charts showed that White Oak currently has the lowest fees for all water taps and only one other city is lower than White Oak with sewer tap fees.

Mayor May explained to the council that they had previously discussed rearranging the water rate tiers and increasing the base rate from \$10/2,000 gallons of water to \$12/2,000 gallons. City Coordinator Charlie Smith told the Council that if they would look at the comparison chart in the new budget, it will show that only the City of Longview is below White Oak on an average water bill. Councilmember Kutch asked when the last time water rates were increased. City Secretary Sherry Roberts answered 2008. Councilmember Owens asked if it would be possible for Charlie to do some sort of comparison in the newspaper for citizens to see. Charlie replied yes that he can do an article and even put it in the Longview paper if the council wanted. Councilmember Mitchell questioned where on the chart does this move the City regarding water rates for 5,000 gallons used. This tier change would provide for a 5,000 gallon water bill to be \$21.75 which still will not move the City to the mid-average range compared to surrounding cities.

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE Nominations of Candidates for Board of Director for Gregg County Appraisal District.

Mayor May explained that all candidates have expressed the desire to serve again. All candidates were nominated by Resolution #2011-07 which was prepared right before the meeting. Councilmember Kutch made the motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ray. Carried unanimously.

CITY COORDINATOR ITEMS

A. Capital Projects Update

City Coordinator Charlie Smith updated the Penick Park Project. The pond area is moving forward with work being done on Fleetwood Street. He and Director of Public Works Mike Self made a trip to view the snap together piers for the pond.

B. Drought Contingency Update

Mr. Smith stated the Water Plant Superintendent Wendy Emmel went to the Big Sandy Creek that day to take pictures and the water is running over the dam more than expected. We are currently still in Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan. There are no plans to move out of Stage 2 anytime soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Mitchell made the motion to adjourn at 6:40p.m., seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ray. Carried unanimously.


Rick May, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sherry Roberts, TRMC
City Secretary