

**WHITE OAK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WHITE OAK CITY HALL
JUNE 11, 2013
6:00 P.M.**

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

STAFF PRESENT : Charlie Smith, Sherry Roberts, Billy Morgan, Tracey Fears, Wendell Basham, Terry Roach, Debbie Sadler, Randy Dodson, Nate Holder, Dale Tuttle, Linda Lee

CALL TO ORDER

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

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider and/or approve payment of bills.
- B. Consider and/or approve City Council minutes from May 15, 2013
- C. Consider and/or approve Resolution #2013-05; Changing time of the regular City Council meeting on a permanent basis.
- D. Consider and/or approve interlocal contract with East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) for GIS Services.

Councilmember Noll made the motion to approve, seconded by Councilmember Owens. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray questioned the progress of the GIS system. City Coordinator Charlie Smith stated the project was going well. Marking has been completed on all the manholes, fire hydrants, valves, and cleanouts. Employees are now using the system to locate manholes when there is an issue. Carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jackie Pittman, 104 E. Tuttle Rd. – Ms. Pittman stated she has lived in the City of White Oak for over thirty-five years and kids attend White Oak schools. She stated she bought the Tuttle house to restore. There was a lot to clean up. She stated that in the paper, City Coordinator Smith said the property has always been over-wooded and she takes offense to this statement. In her opinion, it is like this because code enforcement has allowed it. The property across the street has been developed. The reason it has become a problem now in this neighborhood is because it used to be very elderly and disabled people in poor health and could not keep up their property and the City just let the places keep overgrowing. The neighborhood now has younger owners. For two years she has kept up her property to the road (Brazos Rd.) and has had no problems. She began getting wild animals when she quit maintaining the property that was not hers. The City has cleaned up some of it. She passed out pictures of her property with the skunk that was next to her

house. She stated she went to the paper because she has been trying for over a year to clean up the property. She stated she wants it cleaned up and a safe neighborhood for her kids. She stated she just wants some help with maintaining the property.

Burnis White, 414 N. Glencrest – Mr. White told the Council that he stood in favor of the baseball field upgrade and has since done some research and talked to someone about economic issues about the baseball stuff outside of high school and was floored by the money being made. He stated he just wanted to voice support and people will come if the field is made respectable. This project will bring money into the City. He stated he was just at a tournament in McKinney and to hear the amount of money being made is crazy. If you have a venue for play, they can set up a tournament. This is just another way of making revenue for the City. The money is out there and would draw attention to the City of White Oak.

*Skipped to Agenda #6-High School Baseball Field Upgrade

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE high school baseball field upgrade.

Mayor May stated this has previously been discussed this. Councilmember Mitchell questioned if we ever found out how much Gregg County would contribute to this project. City Coordinator Smith answered that yes and the City would need to send in a request and Judge Stoudt said the County would help us but not sure how much. Councilmember Mitchell questioned if there has been any feedback on donations for the remainder of the loan needed. Mayor May explained the foundation needs to be put together before anyone can contribute. Once the foundation is set up, businesses and individuals will be able to donate and get a tax break. Councilmember Mitchell confirmed that the school will kick in \$250,000 toward this one project, then WOEDCO will kick in \$250,000, then the City picks up \$250,000. The remainder will be funded with private donations. Councilmember Mitchell questioned how the remainder would be paid if not enough donations are received. Mayor May stated the Council will have to decide, but he stated he has already committed \$50,000 of his own money into the project. Councilmember Owens commented that all of this hinges on if the economy stays as good as it is. Who is to know what this economy is going to do. He stated he hoped everyone could look back and say I told you so and hope that we are that good, but it seems like a gamble to him to go out on limb when we do not know where the money is going to come from. Mayor May stated that we know where three-quarters of it will come from. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray questioned what else can the county do besides help with the roads. City Coordinator Smith stated that if the foundation is put together, the County can give money. Mayor May stated the County does that on a regular basis for other entities around. The Mayor stated that in his opinion he believes this is a good thing, he believes it is a good project, and he is behind it 100%. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray questioned that committed is \$50,000 per year for five years. She then questioned how this project would be paid out. Mayor May answered that Heartland Parks will build the facility and will finance it. The City will collect the money each year and make the payment. Mayor May stated there is \$160,000 a year guaranteed plus other donations. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray stated local businesses have always been highly supportive in White Oak. The citizens support this community.

Councilmember Noll made motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Ray. The motion carried 3-2 with Councilmember Mitchell and Councilmember Owens voting in opposition.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SCADA system radio repair for the Water Treatment Plant.

City Coordinator Smith explained there have been SCADA issues with the radio system that was installed around 2000. The radios need to be replaced and the quote was around \$9,200. The 2008 Certificate of Obligation money can be used to pay for the repair.

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE Scull Timber Company, Inc. for timber removal on recently purchased City property on Old Hwy 80 and choose method of removal.

Councilmember Kutch questioned if any of the big trees will be kept or cut all of it. Mayor May answered that it is up to Council. His contention is that the City purchased the property to do something with it. Council must start somewhere. He spoke to two different companies that want to come to White Oak and place their business on that piece of property. If they buy the property, they will clear it to their needs anyway. The City needs to clear it the way we want it cleared or it will just sit there.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ray stated that she does not know what plans are in mind, but once we upgrade the field, this would be the perfect place for restaurants and maybe a hotel for people to use the park more. But, she stated she is still against clear cutting. Another problem she stated is that the man who owns the oil lease behind her topped the trees and left everything there. She was told that this is a fire hazard. The debris left must be buried or burned. This owner chose to bury them. There must be some way for the business to clean up the mess and must be in the deal. Mayor May stated the land cannot be developed if it is left in a mess. Councilmember Noll questioned that if Council chooses option #2, control of what is cut stays with the Council. Mayor May answered that is the way he reads it.

Councilmember Owens stated there is not enough sales on that parcel of land for a timber cutter to profit if he has to clean up the mess. The timber would have to be given to him to clean up the mess. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray stated again that she would still like for Council to pick out the big trees to keep. Mayor May stated he appreciates that but we spent the money to do something with it and there is a way to do it to preserve it as well. Mayor Pro-Tem Ray stated that when the baseball park was first started there was not a tree out there. Ralph Weaver planted those Crepe Myrtles by himself. Councilmember Mitchell stated he had to contradict her. He and Ralph both planted those in the late 70's. Mayor May stated that staff will need to revisit with the timber company and inquire about optional cleanup procedures.

DISCUSSION regarding a new policy on swimming pool drainage requirements.

City Coordinator Smith explained there have been a lot of calls on people draining their pools and the water going into people's yards. A sample ordinance given to the Council to view states the draining water from a swimming pool must go into the road and down the storm drain. He stated that he will bring an ordinance to Council for approval. Councilmember Owens questioned if the saltwater has enough content to kill vegetation. Mayor May asked a citizen in the audience if his pool kills his grass and he stated no because it is not strong enough to damage the grass. Councilmember Owens stated he did not want to get into trouble with TCEQ with the water going into the storm drain.

EXECUTIVE SESSION in accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D,

- Section 551.074: Personnel Matters – Fire Marshal and Code Enforcement Positions and job descriptions.
- Section 551.074: Personnel Matters – Public Works Employees

Adjourned open session at 6:34 p.m. to enter into executive session.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION to Consider and/or Act upon any deliberation regarding:

- Section 551.074: Personnel Matters – Fire Marshal and Code Enforcement Positions and job descriptions.
- Section 551.074: Personnel Matters – Public Works Employees

Exited executive session and reconvened into open session at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor May announced that Mr. Smith will bring a recommendation to the City Council at the next regular meeting.

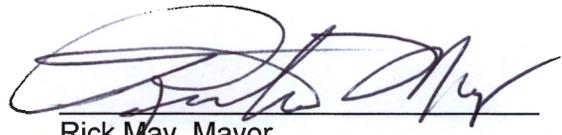
CITY COORDINATOR ITEMS

A. Woodhaven drainage issues

City Coordinator Smith explained he had a complaint from the owner at the corner of Tanglewood and Woodhaven about water coming into his backyard. He told the owner that he would bring this issue to the Council's attention. Mr. Smith stated he will look at it during the next heavy rain.

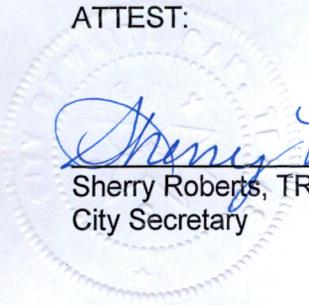
ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Owens made the motion to adjourn at 7:05p.m., seconded by Councilmember Mitchell. Carried 5-0.



Rick May, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Roberts, TRMC
City Secretary