

FARMERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 8, 2012

The Farmersville City Council met in a regularly called session on May 8, 2012 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall with the following members present: Mayor Helmberger, Pansy Hundley, Paul Kelly, Billy Long and Jim Foy. Russell Chandler was not present. Staff members present were City Manager Ben White, Police Chief Mike Sullivan, City Attorney Alan Lathrom, Fire Chief Kim Morris, Finance Director Daphne Hamlin, and City Secretary Edie Sims.

**Item I) CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

Mayor Helmberger called the meeting to order. Edie Sims called the roll and announced a quorum was present.

Mayor Helmberger announced the Annual Fire Department Fish Fry on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Farmersville Cafetorium at the High School.

Edie Sims informed the audience of the Election dates including Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> being the City's Election Day from 7am -7pm. Primary election early voting will begin May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers. Primary Election Day will be at the First Baptist Church Warehouse on Farmersville Parkway.

Paul Kelly informed everyone that his last uncle on his Father's side passed away.

**Item II) CONSENT AGENDA**

Jim Foy requested Item H – Public Works and Customer Service Report be pulled for discussion. Paul Kelly motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with exception of Item H. Jim Foy seconded the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Paul Kelly yes, Billy Long yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item H – Under the Street Systems, Mr. Foy questioned if a schedule is in place for the striping of the parking areas downtown. City Manager Ben White indicated that the striping project would be hand-in-hand with the bond issue. Mr. White stated he will attain costs of the project to either fund through the bond or to plan for the future budget. Currently there are no funds in the Street Maintenance Fund for striping.

Mr. Foy requested a water usage comparison chart from last year to see if we are meeting the water conservation needs.

Mr. Foy asked when the EMS portion of the Public Safety Building would be complete and ready to resume their living requirements. Mr. White indicated that cabinets are 1 week away from being received and installed. A new dishwasher, vent-a-hood and a self-cleaning range has been installed. The completion of their project should be very soon.

Billy Long motioned to approve Item H with Paul Kelly seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Paul Kelly yes, Billy Long yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval

**Item III) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Paul Kelly announced the Planning and Zoning Commission chose to stay on their original decision regarding the living quarters on the first floor in the CA District which allowed residential living on the first floor and removing the owner/occupant restriction.

All other Informational Items were presented to the Council. Council did not request further information or clarification regarding Informational Items.



**Item IV – A) READING OF ORDINANCES – SECOND READING: CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON ORDINANCE # O-2012-0508-001 REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

First reading of Ordinance # O-2012-0508-001 was passed on April 24, 2012. Mayor Helmberger declared a job well done by City Manager Ben White on this project. All the revisions requested have been interjected into the Plan. Paul Kelly motioned to approve the second reading of Ordinance # O-2012-0508-001 with Jim Foy seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Paul Kelly yes, Billy Long yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

**Item V – A) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON RESOLUTION # R-2012-0508-001 DENYING ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISIONS'S REQUESTED RATE CHANGE**

Jeanette Moser, representative for Atmos Energy, came before the Council expressing the need to deny the requested rate change by Atmos through the Atmos Cities Steering Committee's recommendation. The rate file case was originally filed January 31, 2012 and was suspended until June 4, 2012 to allow negotiations between the cities and Atmos. Negotiations have not been successful and another rate request denial is being requested to allow another 90 days for negotiations. Jim Foy motioned to approve Resolution # R-2012-0508-001 with Billy Long seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Paul Kelly yes, Billy Long yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

**Item V – B) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON CHANGES TO THE CIVIC CENTER FEES**

City Manager Ben White presented the Council with a recommendation from the Library/Civic Center Board who recommends increasing the deposit and rental fees for the Civic Center usage. Pansy Hundley expressed great aversion to increasing the fees. Ms. Hundley also was very displeased with the need for cleaning services. According to the detailed expenditures, the City has lost \$2,803.66 for the continued upkeep of the Civic Center. Those expenses included cleaning and utility costs. Mayor Helmberger stated he would like to keep the Civic Center as a facility used by civic organizations which promote Farmersville, yet the decision whether the facility's use is a party barn or civic use is the question. Mayor Helmberger stated he feels the Civic Center projects our image and we should be extremely proud of our facilities. Mr. White stated a party facility located off Highway 380 charges around \$700 rental which could be used as a data point. Mr. White also indicated that the current expenses are not being met with the deposits and rental fees. Most of the rentals are not citizens of Farmersville that utilize the facility. Ms. Hundley stated maybe we should not rent to those who are consistent problems. Ms. Hundley stated the originating use of the facility was for the public and was not meant to be a money making venture. Billy Long interjected that the facility does need to pay for itself and not have the taxpayers pay for subsidizing this facility. Jim Foy stated he thought the operation costs of the facility are reasonable. Someone must pay for the facility, either the end users or taxpayers. Mr. White suggested a monitoring time to see if the new charges meet or exceed the cost of operation. Another change recommended by the Library/Civic Center Board was to charge the civic group if cleaning is required after their use. Their rent will still be at no cost, but they will be held responsible for cleanup after their use of the facility.

Jim Foy motioned to approve the rates as recommended and adopt the additional rules by City Staff with Billy Long seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows:



Pansy Hundley no, Paul Kelly yes, Billy Long yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with the vote 3 to 1 approval.

**Item V – C) CONSIDER AND DISCUSS CITYWIDE NOISE LIMITS. DIRECT CITY STAFF REGARDING POSSIBLE ACTIONS**

Police Chief Mike Sullivan came before the Council and informed them of an ordinance that only addresses vehicular noise but not in regard to use at the Onion Shed other events where live music is conducted. Mayor Helmberger stated he understands the concern; however we must be careful as to not prohibit activities such as the Concert in the Park series where live music is amplified. Chief Sullivan stated he will research and work with City Staff to have an ordinance presented to assist with this issue. Mayor and Council concurred for Chief Sullivan to proceed.

**Item V – D) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON ITEMS RELATED TO THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE**

City Manager Ben White stated he has been in contact with McCord Engineering to assist with information about our electrical system. This engineering firm will provide answers as to the cost of keeping our system and operating it thru the City versus hiring a company such as Sharyland. What type of equipment must be purchased, the increase of manpower for linemen, utility clerks, et cetera will be researched. The research is significant at this time to give the Council an understanding of the magnitude of our electrical utility. Mayor Helmberger stated it is imperative to treat the electrical system as a utility and a revenue generator. Mr. White indicated it provides significant revenue to the City, well above our other utilities. Future information will be provided to the Council.

**Item V – E) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON THE REMOVAL OF STOP SIGNS ON FARMERSVILLE PARKWAY**

City Manager Ben White stated he had a discussion with First Baptist Church's pastor, Bart Barber, who encouraged the City to keep the stop sign located at Washington and Farmersville Parkway due to the heavy foot traffic utilized by the Church. Mr. White stated the other two stop signs also have dips at the sign areas which will help keep the speeds lower, yet will not impede the Thoroughfare Plan. Jim Foy stated it made sense to remove the stop signs at Hamilton and Johnson Street intersections allowing thru traffic on Farmersville Parkway. Paul Kelly stated he is for keeping two stop signs at Hamilton due to the Splash Pad and park area and the second at Washington. Mr. Kelly is not opposed to removing the stop signs on Johnson Street. Mayor Helmberger also recalled the Council to the median and sidewalks that are available to pedestrian traffic along Farmersville Parkway.

Jim Foy motioned to eliminate the stop signs on Farmersville Parkway at Hamilton and Johnson Streets. Billy Long seconded the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Paul Kelly no, Billy Long yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with the vote 3 to 1 approval. For clarity, the signs will be removed on Farmersville Parkway only, the intersecting streets will still stop to thru traffic on Farmersville Parkway.

**Item V – F) CONSIDER, APPROVE AND ACT UPON RESOLUTION # R-2012-0508-002 REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SEAWAY PIPELINE THAT RUNS THROUGH FARMERSVILLE**

Jim Foy introduced Resolution # R-2012-0508-002 as a mechanism for the City to ensure safety for the citizens of Farmersville regarding the type of materials being transported through a pipe which travels behind Mike Goldstein's property on Wilcoxson Street, crosses



County Road 611, is adjacent to Crossroad Terrace Apartments and travels by Shady Oaks Apartments, goes under Highway 380 and runs adjacent to the City's sewer plant. The pipe was installed 36 years ago as a natural gas pipe. Companies are wanted to convert the pipe into a transporting pipe which reverses the flow from Oklahoma to the coast. The concern is the increased amount of pressure from 200-400 psi increasing up to 1200 psi. The chemicals proposed to be transported are corrosive, acidic and hot with temperatures of 150-165 degrees. This material is very heavy and sinks and hardens. It is not like oil that floats, thereby making a cleanup difficult and very costly. Rupturing pipes is a great concern. There pipes run past scores of residences and the safety of our citizens is of utmost concern. Mayor Helmberger stated the pipes are a necessary evil and many types of pipes are being repurposed. He continued that energy companies are trying to help with the energy crisis, yet are met with challenges and battles. This Resolution is not that purpose.

A recess was called by Mayor Helmberger at 6:55pm to allow the closing of the Early Voting Polls for the City's General/Bond Election.

Council resumed their meeting at 7:21pm.

Jim Foy stated the Resolution is a mechanism to delay until all issues can be properly addressed. Paul Kelly seconded the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Paul Kelly yes, Billy Long yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

#### **Item V – G) INTERCONNECT CONTRACTS UPDATE**

City Manager Ben White indicated that all wholesale water providers are involved with final negotiations for the interconnect contracts. North Farmersville Water Supply is closer to being completed along with Copeville SUD following closely behind. Caddo Basin will take extra negotiations; however all contracts are expected by the end of the month. No action was taken on this item.

#### **Item V – H) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Per City Manager Ben White, nothing has changed since the last meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan. A kick-off meeting has been scheduled for May 9, 2012 at City Hall from 1pm – 4pm to include Daniel and Brown, Inc. and Kimley-Horn, Inc. All Council members are invited to come and a meeting notice has been posted to cover the Open Meetings Act requirement. No action by the Council was required.

#### **Item V – I) CHAPARRAL TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE**

Per City Manager Ben White, Derrick Tarrant Trucking was awarded the bid for the crushed granite to be used on the Chaparral Trail project. A bid package has been sent out for contractors with the bid opening set for May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Council will receive the bidding information to award the bid at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The project will then be set to move forward well within the timeline of the grant requirements. No action by the Council was required.

#### **Item VI) REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF PLACING ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

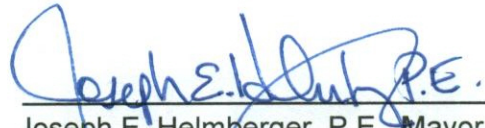
- Billy Long presented concerns of the safety at the City Park with play equipment. The swing seats need to be replaced and the slide needs to be securely attached for safety of the children. City Manager Ben White stated he will report this completed on his City Manager's report rather than an action item for the Council.

- Jim Foy stated he would like to have the "Request for Consideration of Placing Items on Future Agendas" returned to the second meeting of the Council's agenda.

**Item VII) ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned at 7:28pm.

APPROVED

  
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Joseph E. Helmberger, P.E., Mayor

ATTEST

  
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Edie Sims, City Secretary

