

FARMERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2013

The Farmersville City Council met in a regularly called session on January 22, 2013 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall with the following members present: Mayor Joe Helmberger, Pansy Hundley, Billy Long, Russell Chandler and Jim Foy. Staff members present were City Manager Ben White, Police Chief Mike Sullivan, Fire Chief Kim Morris 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 welcomed all guests and visitors. Councilman Billy Long offered the invocation with Mayor Helmberger leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Helmberger offered the guests and visitors to speak on a non-agenda item with no one coming forward.

No announcements were made by the Council.

Item II – A) SECOND READING – CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE TEMPORARY DECREASE IN PRIMA FACIA SPEED LIMIT ALONG A DESIGNATED SECTION OF HIGHWAY 380 WHILE HIGHWAY 380 UNDERGOES CONSTRUCTION

Mayor Helmberger announced that Council approved the first reading to decrease the speed limit along Highway 380 while under construction at the last Council meeting. With no discussion, Russell Chandler motioned to approve the ordinance at second reading with Billy Long seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Mayor Helmberger stated that the information will be forwarded to TxDOT for their process. The 35 mph requested speed limit may not be an option, but could be lowered to 40 mph.

Item II – B) FIRST READING – CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND/CHANGE THE REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE CHAPARRAL TRAIL

Mayor Helmberger announced the changes presented are to fit the current use of the trail. City Manager Ben White reviewed each of the proposed changes to include: allowing equestrian activity on both the improved and unimproved surfaces of the trail; opening the hours of use to 24/7 and kept the restrictive use regarding hunting which is unlawful on the Chaparral Trail; allowing cooking and camping through a permit with the City of Farmersville; and removed the specific areas to park and restated that parking is allowed in designated areas. These changes would be productive to the upcoming uses along the Chaparral Trail and include expansions for uses and parking in the future.

Russell Chandler motioned to approve the ordinance on first reading as presented with Pansy Hundley seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item III – A) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH COLLIN COUNTY AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT (CCART)

City Manager Ben White stated that the Interlocal Agreement had been reviewed by our City Attorney. Minimal changes were then submitted to the CCART Board for review and the CCART Board agreed to the changes submitted. Mayor Helmberger noted that if the burden becomes unbearable for the City, there is an option to opt out of the program. Mayor Helmberger will be representing the City of Farmersville on the transit board. Mayor Helmberger recommended the Council move forward with the Interlocal Agreement with CCART. Russell Chandler motioned to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Jim Foy seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item III – B) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION WITH THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO FUND REGULATORY AND RELATED ACTIVITIES BY PAYING \$.05 PER CAPITA

Council was informed that the presented resolution is an annual participation with the Atmos Cities Steering Committee who facilitates issues between Atmos and the cities. The fee of \$165.05 is a good value for the services we receive. Jim Foy motioned to approve the resolution as presented with Billy Long seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item III – C) UPDATE ON THE HIGHWAY 380 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BY TXDOT

City Manager Ben White informed the Council that he met with TxDOT last week trying to use all efforts to keep the Main Street Bridge open during construction. The closure period has been reduced from 9 months to 5 months; however the bridge will be completely closed during the bridge construction. Alternative paths will be afforded for travel to include Orange Street, Rike Street, Hamilton Street, Mimosa Street, and Beene Street.

Mayor Helmberger stated the traffic control plan had to be redrawn but is doable. The intersections will be completed first to all 100% cross traffic before the bridge is removed. The ramps that oppose each other will be kept open as much as possible and the medians will be taken out on Highway 380 for easier crossing capabilities. TxDOT is working with the City as much as possible and the City is working to minimize issues. Mayor Helmberger also announced that TxDOT will be making repairs on the ramps next week due to the poor condition of the surfacing.

Item III – D) UPDATE ON THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

City Manager Ben White indicated that big changes have occurred with the electrical system since the last report. Ninety percent of the capital improvement program is complete and will be having recommendations to the Council very shortly. The appraisal activity is 15% complete with the inventory being 100% complete. March 2013 is the deadline to have all the data surrounding the system completed with recommendations to go forward.

Sharyland is expected to give their annual report of the electric system review on February 12, 2013. The electric surcharge rate of \$.005 per kilowatt-hour which was approved by Council has been fully implemented.

Jim Foy stated he would like Sharyland to include in their annual report a review of wholesale power and clarify the PCRF calculation. Mr. White stated he will request an expert to discuss the PCRF.

Item III – E) UPDATE ON THE CHAPARRAL TRAIL PROJECT

Eddy Daniel and Cory Higgins, representatives for Daniel and Brown, Inc., came before the Council to show the most recent sign design of the Chaparral Trail. A Chaparral, otherwise known as a Roadrunner, has been added to the sign as the name sake of the Trail.

Challenges that have slowed the progress of the Trail project include holidays, inclement weather and issues with the decomposed granite. The contractor had to go back and screen the granite and add stabilizer to give a firmer compaction. The latest challenge has been an equipment supplier. The clearing of the trees looks good and the City will not be out any funds other than expected. Even though this item will be discussed during another agenda item, Mr. Daniel recommended adding days for the Change Order to February 13-15 to allow time for completion of the project. If rain delays the project more, then another Change Order will be brought back to the Council. The project is planned to be completed by late winter or early spring.

Northeast Texas Trail Coalition will be holding their monthly meeting in Farmersville which will include a complete tour of the Chaparral Trail. The Coalition has heard that Farmersville has a lot of work completed on the Trail and that it is used extensively.

Advertising for Phase II of the Trail project will be included for approximately 6,000' in length to improve the trail surface. Phase II is being funded by the Collin County Open Space Grant with a 50% match provided by the Farmersville Community Development Corporation.

Phase III of the Trail project will be provided through TxDOT Enhancement Reimbursement Program which will finish the trail to the Collin/Hunt County Line. Phase III will also include land acquisition and other amenities to improve the Chaparral Trail overall.

Mayor Helmberger stated Farmersville's progress has become a model for the remainder of the trail which will end in New Boston, Texas. Mileage markers are critical and will be included with the project along with park benches and good signage.

Jim Foy questioned if the maintenance of the existing surface would be covered through the grant funds with the answer being no. Any repairs to the existing surface must be funded through the City. Mayor Helmberger stated the City may want to consider making repairs in the future with decomposed granite. Cory Higgins stated he has noticed an increase in use even during construction. Mayor Helmberger stated he would like to see larger trees identified along the trail.

Item III – F) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND APPROVE A CHANGE ORDER ON PHASE 1 OF THE CHAPARRAL TRAIL PROJECT

City Manager Ben White stated that staff recommends the increase of time for the Chaparral Trail project to extend to February 13th or 15th. In the previous agenda item, signage was discussed. These signs are upgraded from the originally planned signs; however the signs meet our Sign Ordinance and are consistent with those used throughout the City. The footage of the Trail, approximately 600', has been reduced to allow the changes needed for the signage. The sign standards are very high and will enhance the look and value of the Trail. The original trail sign was on a pole but has been adapted to meet the new sign standards. Signage will be installed at the Trail Head, both County Road crossings and a monument at FM 2194. The original signs were pole signs, but the changes have brought the signage to current sign standards. Billy Long motioned to approve with Jim Foy seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item III – G) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A RESOLUTION FOR ITEMS TO BE SOLD EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR AT AUCTION

A resolution was presented to the Council to sell a list of items from the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works Department. Billy Long motioned to approve the Resolution as presented with Russell Chandler seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item III – H) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON TIRZ BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Helmberger is presently the Chairman for the TIRZ Board and has requested his renewal of the same position until December 30, 2013. This position is to be renewed by December 30th of each year. Jim Foy motioned to appoint Mayor Helmberger as TIRZ Board chairman with Billy Long seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM III – I) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON OPTIONS RELATED TO THE MAIN STREET GRANT LIGHTING SYSTEM

City Manager Ben White stated that this project is under the gun to spend the grant funds within the allotted time. In November, the Council agreed to fund the lighting project due to funding issues with the Main Street Grant. After reconsidering the project, the Main Street Grant has re-issued \$40,000, however the project must be completed by February 24th. In the meantime, Mr. White has had the circuit breaker panel repaired which will be very beneficial for this project.

Mr. White offered three options in order to move forward with this lighting project.

- 1) Use grant funds with no additional City funds and leave the budget amendment dated November 2012 as is. By using this option, rewiring of the median light poles and gazebo on McKinney Street would be accomplished; 10 double light poles would be replaced on the McKinney Street median; and 9 single light poles would be replaced to the south of town on Main Street.
- 2) Use grant funds and supplement with \$12,000 of City provided funds. By using this option, McKinney Street median light poles and the gazebo would be rewired; 10 double light poles would be replaced on the McKinney Street median; and 18 single light poles would be replaced along Main Street. A budget amendment would be required to adjust the original budget amendment from \$45,000 to \$33,000.
- 3) Use grant funds and supplement with \$26,000 of City provided funds. By using this option, McKinney Street median light poles and the gazebo would be rewired; 10 double light poles would be replaced on the McKinney Street median; 18 single light poles would be replaced along Main Street; and all the light poles in the downtown north and south parking lots (11 single light poles) would be replaced. A budget amendment would be required to adjust the original budget amendment from \$45,000 to \$19,000.

Mr. White recommended Option # 2 which will provide the best value. Jim Foy motioned to approve Option # 2 with Pansy Hundley seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: Pansy Hundley yes, Billy Long yes, Russell Chandler yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval. A budget amendment will be prepared for the next Council meeting to conclude this topic.

ITEM III – J) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A RIFLE PURCHASE PROGRAM FOR THE FARMERSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Mike Sullivan spoke on behalf of this topic to inform the Council that there is a need for police officers to have rifles in their possession while on duty. With costs and budgets being prohibitive, Police Departments cannot afford to buy rifles for every officer. There are tactics involved that each officer must train and be certified prior to carrying said weapon. This program is of great concern as rifles are plentiful to suspects and officers should be equally armed. Presently Chief Sullivan and one other officer have the qualifications to use rifles.

Chief Sullivan proposed the City fund \$4,500 to purchase rifles through the State's bid pricing available to the City. Each officer will reimburse the City through payroll deductions and have the purchase completely reimbursed no later than September 30th. City Manager Ben White indicated he would prefer a policy in place along with the budget amendment. Mr. White also requested our auditor be informed and confirm the policy and procedures.

The rifles purchased will be owned by the officer. Each officer will have the rifle custom made to fit his/her personal needs, but the rifle itself will be a standardized type that would be available to any citizen making a similar purchase. Jim Foy stated he wanted to see the Police Department be better equipped and armed; however he was concerned of the individual officers having ownership of the rifles. Mr. Foy questioned why the City doesn't have city owned rifles since the City provides guns, uniforms and other equipment. Chief Sullivan expressed the funding requirements are not available and the Rifle Program makes sense for an officer to be geared properly for the job required. Chief Sullivan stated that each weapon is not utilized by all and must be specifically set to each individual. The rifle will be a standard AR-15, even a citizen could purchase this same firearm. Chief Sullivan added that he is not interested nor will allow a specialized rifle such as SWAT Teams use; however the rifle will be adapted to police modifications.

Consensus of the Council was to move forward and produce a policy along with the budget amendment at the next Council meeting.


ITEM VII) REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF PLACING ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No one requested items for future agendas.

ITEM VIII) ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 7:20:37pm.

ATTEST



Edie Sims, City Secretary

APPROVED



Joseph E. Helmberger, P.E., Mayor

