

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

April 5, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Mayor John A. Sellers called the regular session of the City Council to order at 6:16 p.m. Councilman Julian moved to adjourn into executive session. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous. An Executive Session was held at 6:16 p.m. in accordance with Texas Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551 - §551.071, Consultation with Attorney, §551.072, Purchase of Real Property and §551.087, Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations: Project Superman. The following council members and staff were present:

Present: Mayor John A. Sellers
Councilman Jay W. Julian
Councilman Harold Nash Sr. 7 p
Councilman Oscar Aguilar
Councilman Freddie Taylor
Councilman Gary Spraggins
Mayor Pro Tem Doug Moore

Absent: None

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Natalie Darrow, City Secretary
Nate Smith, City Attorney
Lesa Smith, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director
Tory Niewiadomski, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director
Gordon Frazier, Assistant City Manager/HR Director-7 p
Jason Ricketson, Chief of Police – 7 p
Roger Feagley, Executive Director of EDC

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Sellers reconvened the regular meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Sellers led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag, and the invocation was led Councilman Nash.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Fair Housing Month Proclamation

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, The National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. SELLERS, Mayor of the City of Sulphur Springs and on behalf of the Sulphur Springs City Council do hereby proclaim the month of April as

Fair Housing Month

in the City of Sulphur Springs and urge all citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing Law.

It is so proclaimed this the 5th day of April 2022.

John A. Sellers, Mayor

Councilman Aguilar announced that the Rodeo is April 15 and 16 and there will be a trick rider, as well as other special guests. Chief Ricketson let the public know that the first responders meet and greet will be Saturday, April 23rd from 10a-1p with food and prizes. He also said that April 30th will be Battle of the Badges softball tournament at the high school girls softball field with bounce houses for the children. Mayor Sellers added that there is a benefit for Israel Lewis 5-7 p.m. Saturday the 9th and additionally, the 23rd the Leadership Class will be making improvements to Kids Kingdom.

Councilman Nash added that Kenneth Abron is in the hospital. There will be a fundraiser for him on the 15th at Morning Chapel at 6 p.m.

MANAGER’S REPORT INCLUDES A STATUS REPORT OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS, ACCIDENTS AND CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH, AND A REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

COVID-19 RESPONSE – We have 0 patients in the COVID unit at the hospital.

CLAIMS – We had a fleet accident in March involving a truck from Water and Sewer Distribution Division. There were not any injuries. The other driver has not filed a claim with TML yet.

We had one other small claim involving a tire and rebar that was protruding from a driveway approach. TML denied the claim.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING – It looks like we are going to get the \$2.4 million in grant funding that we applied for. It won’t be official until later this month, but we scored well above the cut-off line.

PACIFIC PARK – The playground is under construction. I expect it to be completed this week.

The Capital Construction Division is installing a concrete walking path around the park.



COLLEGE STREET – The water/sewer/drainage is nearly complete for phase 1 from the plaza to Patton. Next, Highway 19 Construction (the contractor) will build the road and the Capital Construction Division will continue to the east with utility construction on Phase 2 (Patton to Como).

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES – Finance Director Lesa Smith will present a report of year-to-date revenues and expenditures.

STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Texana Land and Asphalt has begun the SIP program with work on Lee Street. Work will continue later this month with some of the projects that do not require cement stabilization, and then in June/July they will go full-steam and get the remainder of the projects done. Portland cement is in short supply these days, but should balance out before summer.

2022 SIP		
Street	Between	Length
Jackson	Middle to College	2480
Kasie	Tate to Camp	681

Lee	Davis to League	3099
Fore	Main to Connally	1070
Forrest Ln	Bell to Barbara	1119
Garrison	Main to Connally	940
Glover	Davis to Church	348
Houston	Hillcrest to League	4800
Commercial Serv.	various repair	442
Como	College to RR	3317
Dabbs	Gilmer to Davis	401
Drexel	Broadway to Mockingbird	1441
Fisher	Spence to Lee	1500
Ardis	Spence to Beckham	1880
Azalea	Hillcrest to Main	3648
Bonner	Church to Davis	539
Brinker	Beasley to dead-end	2629
California	Church to Seventh	1520
Charles	College to Lakeshore	998
Lee (2021)	Davis to Broadway	1901
League (2021)	Bellview to Pampa	3131
Total Linear Feet		37,884
Total Miles		7.18
Total Cost		\$ 2,012,318.00
Street Maintenance Fee Cost Estimate		\$ 1,072,668.00
Estimated Street Maintenance Fee Funds Available (Fund Balance Plus Budgeted Revenue)		\$ 1,049,101.81
Red Text indicates streets paid for by the Street Maintenance Fee. All other streets are paid for by a transfer from General Fund to Capital Fund.		

Elsewhere around the city, employees:

- Repaired 400 potholes.
- Cleaned storm drain inlet boxes 3 times.
- Replaced various traffic control signs around town.
- Made 13 significant street repairs following utility repairs.
- Cleaned and prepared the Hopkins County Veterans Memorial and the interactive fountain for the season.
- Held grand opening event for the National Fitness Campaign fitness court at Pacific Park.
- Prepared sports fields for the season.
- Responded to 205 fire/rescue calls including 4 structure fires and 1 vehicle fire.

- Performed 35 fire inspections.
- Performed preventative maintenance on 90 fire hydrants.
- Responded to 182 calls for animal control, and achieved an 81% adoption rate.
- Made 3 felony arrests in the special crimes division.
- Responded to 35 accidents, wrote 606 citations, made 46 arrests and recorded 53 offences in the patrol division.
- Sold 3,797 gallons of AvGas and 11,037 gallons of JetA fuel.
- Had 1,605 operations (take-offs or landings) in March.
- Repaired scoreboard at Buford Park.
- Ordered parts for new electrical service at Pacific Park.
- Treated wastewater to a daily average total suspended solids reading of .27 mg/L
- Replaced waterfall pump at Lake Coleman.
- Checked out 3,232 items from the Library
- Conducted 37 building inspections, 24 electrical inspections, 21 plumbing inspections, 51 mechanical inspections and issued 37 building permits.
- Repaired 10 water main ruptures.
- Unstopped 33 sewer mains.
- Repaired 9 sewer mains.
- Washed 75,000 feet of sewer mains.
- Treated 133 million gallons of potable water.

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Smith presented the staff report on budget spending to date.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

City Secretary Darrow presented the staff report. Consider for approval the City Council regular meeting minutes of March 1, 2022; the City Council Special meeting minutes of March 22, 2022; the Planning and Zoning meeting minutes of December 20, 2021; the Economic Development Corporation meeting minutes of February 22, 2022; and a 380 Agreement for 123 Lamar Street. Councilman Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Julian seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING TO READOPT, RATIFY, REPUBLISH AND EXTEND ORDINANCE NO. 2762, THE CITY'S CURFEW ORDINANCE THAT WAS PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN 2020

Chief of Police Ricketson presented the staff report. Ordinance No. 2762 is the city's curfew ordinance and was passed by the city council in 2020. At the passage, the ordinance contained

a sunset clause to make the ordinance effective from May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2022. The ordinance has been updated with a new sunset clause that would continue the ordinance effective May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2025. Per state law, the ordinance can only be extended three years, with council approval. The law also requires that a public hearing be held on the second and final reading. Mayor Sellers opened a public hearing in reference to Ordinance 2762 at 7:15 p.m. He asked if anyone was present to speak to the issue. There was no one to speak. Mayor Sellers closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. Councilman Spraggins moved to approve the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Nash, Aguilar, Taylor, Spraggins, Moore, Sellers
Nays: Julian

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ONLY ON HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PRESENTATION

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Smith presented the slide show. She explained that a Homestead Exemption is a property tax break for owner occupied residential properties. It cannot be claimed by the property owner on more than one home. It reduces the taxable value on the property by what percentage agreed upon by the governing body. The maximum exemption can be up to 20% of property value but the minimum exemption is \$5000 of valuation. 54% of our homes will qualify for the homestead exemption. There was a brief discussion. Mayor Sellers said that he would like to see this as an action item and Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Smith said that it had to be approved by Ordinance by July 1st.

DISCUSSION/ACTION, IF ANY, ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

None.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC FORUM

Mynder L. Kelly from Phyllis Court addressed the council in reference to junk and abandoned vehicles. Debra Smith from Ardis Street addressed the council in reference to ADA ramp locations at City Hall. She requested more signage to these ramp locations. Irene Hanson from Glover Street addressed the council in reference to benefits of the tax exemption. City Manager Maxwell explained that the short answer is it will lower your taxes.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.