

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 COUNTY OF ANDERSON §
 CITY OF PALESTINE §

The City Council of the City of Palestine, Texas convened in a Worksession and Regular Meeting on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 4:30 PM, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present:

CAROLYN SALTER	:	MAYOR
KATHI MASONHEIMER	:	COUNCILMEMBER
VERNON DENMON, JR.	:	COUNCILMEMBER
VICKEY L. CHIVERS	:	COUNCILMEMBER
JIM YELVERTON	:	COUNCILMEMBER
ANDREA BAIRD	:	COUNCILMEMBER
STEVE PRESLEY	:	COUNCILMEMBER
R. DALE BROWN	:	CITY MANAGER
JANELLE WILLIAMS	:	CITY SECRETARY
RONALD D. STUTES	:	CITY ATTORNEY

Councilmember Presley was absent for the worksession; a quorum of the Council was present.

WORKSESSION

Discussion of Raw Water Intake Pump

Utilities Director Robert Sedgwick provided Council with a presentation of the water pump station. Discussion was held on condition of the pumps, the possibility that pump #2 was struck by lightning, and quotes for funding repair of the pumps.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Salter called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Monsignor Zach of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Mayor Salter read aloud proclamations recognizing Westwood High School, Palestine High School, and Palestine Junior High School Youth and Governments Students for outstanding performances at district and state conferences.

Mayor Salter read aloud a proclamation designating February 2009 as Black History Month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nohemy Roberts commented that her home was robbed, the need for community support of the police department, and drug problems at Reagan Park.

Pat Davis commented that the city should support other non-profit organizations, not just Meals on Wheels.

George Cosseboom commented that if the current Senior Citizens Building cannot be used in another capacity the city should sell it. He added that the seniors are trying to promote Palestine as a retirement community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing on Zone Change Request from MF-3 (Multi-Family High Density District) to C-4 (Highway Commercial District) at 3101 South Loop 256

Mayor Salter opened the public hearing. With no speakers for or against the zone change, the public hearing was closed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Salter reported that the Palestine Community Fitness Fair was very well attended. She advised that the next phase is to implement competition between schools and governmental entities, and to try and target childhood obesity and physical fitness for senior citizens.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Development Services Director Warren Oakley reported that Code Enforcement and Police Department are joining forces three days a week, which will provide for better enforcement and will make Code Enforcement Officers safer in the field.

Departmental Reports for Development Services, Library, Police and Municipal Court were provided.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Masonheimer, seconded by Councilmember Yelverton, to approve board appointments as listed below. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

- Dixie Lee Curtis to Arts Advisory Board
- Ava Harmon to Main Street Advisory Board
- Sue Hammett to Parks Advisory Board
- Gary Conner and Wendy Grantz to Tourism Advisory Board
- Griff Hubbard to Texas State Railroad Authority to replace Dan Davis
- Mark Thomas to Building and Standards Commission to replace David Mettauier
- Nickey Hightower and Sherrie Stroud as Alternates to Building and Standards Commission
- Carroll Boyd to Palestine Economic Development Corporation to replace Sloan Shuffler

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the Worksession and Regular Meeting of October 13, 2008

- 2) Consider Approval of Public Swimming Pool Hours for the 2009 Swim Season
- 3) Consider Authorizing Expenditure for Software Maintenance of Library Automation System

Motion was made by Councilmember Presley, seconded by Councilmember Baird, to approve Consent Items 1 through 3 as submitted. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider Contract for Senior Citizen Activity Services with Meals on Wheels of Palestine, Inc.

Motion was made by Councilmember Yelverton, seconded by Councilmember Presley, to approve the contract with Meals on Wheels of Palestine, Inc. to provide senior citizen activities and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement, with the addition that Meals on Wheels provides the city with a copy of their yearly audit. Upon vote, motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Chivers voting nay.

Consider Declaring the Senior Citizens Center as Surplus Property and Authorize the City Manager to Dispose of the Property in the Most Advantageous Manner for the City

Motion was made by Councilmember Yelverton, seconded by Councilmember Chivers, to table this item. Upon vote, motion was denied 3-4 with Mayor Salter and Councilmembers Presley, Masonheimer, and Baird voting nay.

After discussion, Motion was made by Councilmember Masonheimer, seconded by Councilmember Baird, to declare the Senior Citizens Center as surplus and authorize the City Manager to dispose of the land and building in a manner most advantageous to the city.

Councilmember Yelverton left the meeting at 7:19PM.

After further discussion, motion passed 4-2 with Councilmembers Chivers and Denmon voting nay.

Consider Approval of an Agreement with Gary R. Traylor and Associates for Grant Writing Services for South Loop Pressure Plane Water Improvements

Motion was made by Councilmember Presley, seconded by Councilmember Denmon, to approve the contingency agreement fee contract for grant application services with Gary R. Traylor and Associates. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Consider an Ordinance Granting a Zone Change Request from MF-3 (Multi-Family High Density District) to C-4 (Highway Commercial District) at 3101 South Loop 256

Motion was made by Councilmember Presley, seconded by Councilmember Denmon, to adopt **Ordinance No. O-12-09** granting the zone change request as presented. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Consider Repair to Raw Water Service Pump and Motor #2 & 3 (300HP) and #4 (125HP) at the Raw Water Pump Station

Motion was made by Councilmember Denmon, seconded by Councilmember Masonheimer, to award work to Wheeler Pump Company in an amount not to exceed \$150,000. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Consider an Ordinance Approving Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2008-09

Motion was made by Councilmember Baird, seconded by Councilmember Masonheimer, to adopt **Ordinance No. O-13-09** approving the budget amendments as presented. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Upcoming Activities and Report on Attendance at Texas State Railroad

Lori Pennington reported on upcoming activities at the Texas State Railroad:

- Events for 2009 include Valentines Express, Great Pumpkin Patch, Snoopy, Lone Ranger, Thomas the Tank and Polar Express
- \$10.00 train rides for local residents will run through February
- Train rides during Dogwood Trails

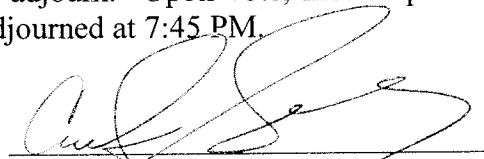
East Texas Council of Governments Meeting Update

Councilmember Baird reported on the following:

- Palestine is next on the list for a flex route transportation system. Anyone interested in sitting on the Transportation Board should call ETCOG at 903-984-8641
- Upcoming Census is very important – only 59% of citizens responded to the mail out in 2000. The city should establish a count committee. Citizenship does not matter in the census count. Jobs for census workers will pay from \$9.00 to \$15.00 plus mileage reimbursement. Anyone interested should go to their website at www.2010censusjob.gov.
- ETCOG is looking at ways to form a health insurance contortion


ADJOURN

Motion was made by Councilmember Denmon to adjourn. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously. Mayor Salter declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.



CAROLYN SALTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JANELLE WILLIAMS, CITY SECRETARY