

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, April 27, 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 Chivers was absent for the worksession; a quorum of the Council was present.

WORKSESSION

Joint worksession with Palestine Economic Development Corporation on future directions and strategic plan for economic development

Finance Director Bobby Pennington presented a five year financial outlook of PEDC. City Manager Dale Brown advised that PEDC may need to focus on smaller economic development projects, being more selective on projects to make the most practical use of available funds. Council advised the PEDC to report back with prioritized goals from the Angelou report and what type of director is needed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Presley to recess the worksession. Mayor Salter declared the worksession recessed at 5:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Salter called the regular meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Bruce Hay of First United Methodist Church, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Atkinson commented regarding some young men being ticketed for playing soccer on the old tennis courts at Reagan Park. He asked the Council to consider amending the current ordinance to allow soccer play on the north courts and to repair the lights.

Jude Vergason, who resides at 511 South Royall, commented on a neighbor who is trapping cats and removing them from the neighborhood. She advised that the neighbor claimed to have taken the cats to the Animal Shelter.

Jack Moore, who resides at 107 East Park Street, commented that Katie Moore, who resides at 104 East Park Street with her mother, wanted to address the Council regarding her cat. Katie Moore commented that her black cat was trapped by the neighbor and is still missing. She advised that the Animal Shelter had not received any black cats recently.

Mayor Salter commented that a publication was sent out to radio station regarding the swine flue. She advised that the situation is being monitored and she will work with the appropriate authorities if outbreaks occur here.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Departmental Reports for Main Street and Public Works were provided. A report of City Attorney fees was also provided.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Yelverton, seconded by Councilmember Baird, to appoint Lois Durant and Robert Vineyard to Tourism Advisory Board. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Consider Permitting the Use of Reagan Park for Cinco de Mayo Festival
- 2) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2009
- 3) Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 2, 2009
- 4) Minutes of the Worksession and Regular Meeting of March 9, 2009

Motion was made by Councilmember Yelverton, seconded by Councilmember Chivers, to approve Consent Items 1 through 4 as submitted. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA**Consider an Ordinance Revising Police Department Composition**

Motion was made by Councilmember Presley, seconded by Councilmember Yelverton, to adopt **Ordinance No. O-25-09** as submitted. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Consider Approval of Price Quote for Sewer Camera Equipment from Kinloch Equipment through the Buyboard

Motion was made by Councilmember Denmon, seconded by Councilmember Baird, to approve purchase of the camera from Kinloch Equipment in the amount of \$14,144.00. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Consider a Resolution Finding a Public Need to Exercise Eminent Domain Powers to Take Utility Easements

Motion was made by Councilmember Presley, seconded by Councilmember Denmon, to adopt resolutions for eminent domain and authorize the City Attorney to initiate eminent domain proceedings after a negotiation period. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. R-10-09 - Gina Link Gingerich, East Park Avenue

Resolution No. R-11-09 - W. A. & Mary Fuller, 1006 East Brazos Street

Resolution No. R-12-09 - G. J. Foss, 710 Sylvan Avenue

Resolution No. R-13-09 - Henry Davenport, 102 Crockett Road

Resolution No. R-14-09 - Tony E. & Janis Dressell, Berkley Drive

Consider a Resolution Adopting a Cellular Telephone Policy for City Employees

Motion was made by Councilmember Presley, seconded by Councilmember Denmon, to adopt **Resolution No. R-15-09** approving a cellular telephone allowance policy. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Yelverton, seconded by Councilmember Baird, to adopt **Ordinance No. O-26-09** approving budget amendments as presented. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

Consider Establishing Council Meeting Dates for May 2009

Motion was made by Councilmember Baird, seconded by Councilmember Denmon, to set meeting dates on May 11th and 18th, 2009. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Upcoming Activities and Report on Attendance at Texas State Railroad

Councilmember Presley reported on the following:

- The Lone Ranger event went well, and will be coming back in June
- The Little Engine That Could is scheduled for May 16-17 at the Palestine end
- Memorial Day events sponsored by the Veterans will include the military train, re-enactors, and \$10.00 train rides

Update on 2010 Census

Councilmember Chivers informed citizens that census workers will be in Palestine updating and mapping addresses.

Mayor Salter announced that the Council will retire into executive session pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in Sections 551.087 regarding economic development negotiations and 551.072 regarding real estate. The time was 6:23 PM.

CLOSED SESSION**Update on Negotiations with Economic Development Projects****Acquisition of Real Estate****RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Salter reconvened the Council into open session at 7:10 PM. No action was taken regarding the update on Negotiations with Economic Development Projects and acquisition of Real Estate.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion was made by Councilmember Denmon to adjourn the regular meeting and reconvene into the worksession at 7:10 PM. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.

WORKSESSION**Discuss Revisions to Development Code Regarding Signs, Off-Street Parking and Driveway Standards**


City Manager Brown advised Council of a recent article in the newspaper with incorrect information regarding signs, and provided correct language of sign regulations. Discussion was held regarding monument signs versus pole signs, and the need to address the current size requirements of 50 square feet for signs.

Discussion was held regarding allowing temporary parking lots for up to 24 months; where at that time the temporary parking lot goes away or is made in to a permanent parking lot.

Discussion was held regarding gravel driveways being allowed as long as the property owner maintains it.


ADJOURNMENT OF WORKSESSION

The worksession was adjourned at 8:09 PM



CAROLYN SALTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JANELLE WILLIAMS, CITY SECRETARY