

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

The City Council of the City of Palestine, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. for the Work Session in the City Hall Conference Room, and at 5:30 p.m. for the Regular Meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present:

Mayor Bob Herrington; Mayor Pro Tem Adam Harding; Councilmembers Mitchell Jordan, Vickey L. Chivers, Joseph Thompson, Doug Smith, and Steve Presley; City Manager Wendy Ellis, Development Services Director Jeffrey Lyons, and City Attorney Ronald Stutes.

Other staff present: Utilities Director Robert Sedgwick, Public Works Director Tim Perry, Assistant Chief Jeff Powell, Interim Finance Director Becky Roseberry, Connie Talley, and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Curtis Logan.

Visitors present: Boyd London with First Southwest and Chad Nobels with Siemens.

All Councilmembers were present.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Herrington called the work session to order at 4:04 p.m.

Discussion of options for improving water infrastructure, metering, and related equipment, water conservation equipment, fixtures, or practices for city facilities, funding options for such projects, and the opportunities under Chapter 302 of the Texas Local Government Code for performing and funding such projects.

City Manager Ellis discussed water meter replacement and analysis from Trane. Also, she discussed Chapter 302 of the Texas Local Government Code for performing and funding the projects. Utilities Director Sedgwick informed that meters were reading high and wants to RFQ for services to resolve meter issues and fixed base system to allow meters to transmit data to City Hall. Smart meters could diagnose issues of high water consumption. The RFQ will allow Utilities to gather information to present to Council at a future meeting.

Chad Nobels with Siemens gave a PowerPoint presentation of options for upgrading water meters. Also, he discussed the type of equipment currently used by City and the pros and cons. He provided information on automatic metering infrastructure. Project must be done by "turn by", meter replacement, GPS coordinates for each meter, radio, and home address. Chapter 302 allows the City to go through RFQ based on experience and not on price; and allows the City to fund expensive projects differently than other funding procedures. Also, discussed Chapter 302 procedure for contracting meter project that are not reading accurately will be replaced by Siemens at no cost to the City. The City's involvement in projects and how funding works were discussed.

Discussion with financial advisor on existing debt and options for refunding or issuing debt and overall financial condition.

Discussion was held regarding existing debt and options for refunding or issuing debt and overall financial condition. Boyd London with First Southwest informed that the City could afford to take on debt without affecting current bonds. Council agreed with Staff's assessment of the need to replace meters.

With no other business to come before the Council, the work session was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Herrington called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Harding, and was followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC RECOGNITION, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Will Brule addressed Council regarding employee satisfaction survey.

James Smith addressed Council regarding employee satisfaction survey.

Kaylon Wade addressed Council regarding firefighters' salary.

Economic Development Director Tom Mansky recognized Assistant PEDC Director Greg Laudadio as new Main Street Manager.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Councilmember Presley filed affidavit on abstention from voting on Item 2 of the Regular Agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Herrington thanked Mayor Pro Tem Harding for presenting proclamation to Mary Wyatt Livingston, she celebrated her 104th birthday. Also, thanked Jeff Michaels with KYYK-KNET for donating his time to repair the sound on Channel 14.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Presley reported that the Texas State Railroad has added another layer of history to its locomotive collection. The railroad has acquired one F9 unit. The locomotive was built in 1958 for passenger service and is one of the last locomotives in the streamline locomotive style that was built. It will be used for passenger service on the Rusk train, freight hauling and for Polar Express. It is being repaired and should be running in time for Polar Express.

Councilmember Chivers reported that 3rd Annual Christmas in July would begin on Monday, July 20th.

Councilmember Smith reported that Palestine Community Theater summer musical was Mary Poppins and would be opening Thursday, July 23rd. Additional information may be obtained on Facebook.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Chamber of Commerce Director Marc Mitchell provided a recap of the 2015 Dogwood Trails Festival and the 2014 Frost Fest.

Departmental reports for Development Services and Utilities were provided.

City Manager Ellis provided information on the following:

- Water Distribution System Burnout will take place through July 31st.
- The City does not have jurisdiction over Zito Media. The franchise agreement with Zito Media is not a local agreement it is a State franchise agreement. Any issues or concerns need to be called in to 1-800-365-6988, in order for them to track the issue.
- City hosted three training classes through TML Risk Pool.
- City Manager regional conference on July 14th.
- Library summer reading program on July 15th.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Consider Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of June 22, 2015
- 2) Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 22, 2015
- 3) Consider Approval of Minutes of the Work Session of June 23, 2015

Councilmember Chivers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider adopting a Resolution supporting a City of Palestine Buy Local Campaign.

Economic Development Director Mansky presented item. The purpose of the Resolution is to encourage residents to shop locally. Councilmember Chivers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, to adopt **Resolution No. R-09-15** as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Consider approval of HOT Funding Application – Curious Exhibits.

Councilmember Presley stepped out at 6:26 p.m. Breezy Lake-Wolfe presented item. Tourism Board recommended that \$6,500 for ICEE Success Foundation for **Curious** Exhibit. Mayor Pro Tem Harding made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, to approve HOT funding application for **Curious** Exhibit. Discussion was held. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Presley returned at 6:35 p.m.

Consideration of authorization to issue a Request for Qualifications under Chapter 302 of the Texas Local Government Code for water conservation or usage measures, which may include water infrastructure, metering and related equipment to improve the accuracy or and efficient operation of revenue generation by water utilities, water conservation equipment, fixtures, or practices for city facilities, and any other product or service permissible pursuant to Chapter 302 of the Texas Local Government.

Utilities Director Sedgwick presented item. Staff recommends that the City Council allow the Utilities Department to go out for RFQ for water infrastructure improvements to replace the water meeting system the City currently has. RFQ will be opened to all firms. The City is requesting information on water meter replacement, automatic metering infrastructure or automated meter reading, water and wastewater utility infrastructure, and domestic hot and cold water systems. There is no charge to submit an RFQ and must be submitted by 3:00 p.m., Friday, August 21st and will be presented to Council on Monday, August 24th. Councilmember Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harding, to authorize Utilities to issue Request for Qualifications. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Consider approval of shirts with City Logo for Councilmembers.

City Manager Ellis presented item. No action was taken. Logo is available with local vendor.

Consider approval of an employee satisfaction survey to be used in evaluating the city manager.

Discussion was held and several survey options were presented. City Manager Ellis provided copies of different surveys and informed that Library computer lab could be utilized by employees to complete the survey and the process would be anonymous. Mayor Herrington explained that the survey would be used to gauge employee satisfaction with city manager and should be kept simple. Councilmember Smith made a motion to table item. Councilmember Jordan suggested that each Councilmember should circle the questions they feel are important to include in the survey. Councilmember Smith suggested that Gary Grimes should conduct the survey. Councilmember Chivers added that all employees should be able to participate in employee survey. Councilmember Smith withdrew his motion to table the item and made a motion to postpone items 5 and 6. Upon vote, motion carried 5-2 with Councilmembers Chivers and Thompson voting nay.

Consider approval of the method and time frame to be used in conducting the employee satisfaction survey.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Herrington announced that Council would go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 551.071 regarding consultation with attorney. The time was 7:24 p.m.

1. Discuss agreements with the City of Palestine, Anderson County, and Union Pacific to amend the 1954 agreement regarding the location of offices and operations at Palestine, Texas

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

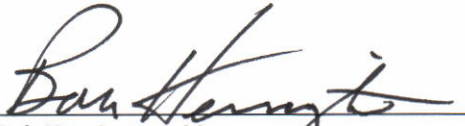
Mayor Herrington reconvened the Council into open session at 8:32 p.m.

No action taken.


ADIURN

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2015.


Bob Herrington, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa Herrera, City Secretary

