

STATE OF TEXAS §
 August 20, 2007
COUNTY OF GRAYSON §

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Sherman, Grayson County, Texas was begun and held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on August 20, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR BILL MAGERS; DEPUTY MAYOR CHIP ADAMI.
 COUNCIL MEMBERS HUGHES, SMITH, T. STEELE, W.
 STEELE, WACKER.

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Magers called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were given by Deputy Mayor Chip Adami.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE MINUTES

The Council reviewed the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 6, 2007. Council Member Hughes moved to approve the Minutes as presented; Second by Council Member Terrence Steele. All present voted AYE.
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MINUTES

PROCLAMATION

"WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY" – AUGUST 26, 2007

Council Member Wacker read a proclamation proclaiming August 26, 2007 as "Women's Equality Day." Lisa Herbert, Business & Professional Women's President, and B&PW Members Lana Bernardin, Sandy Beisley, and Jacqueline Banfield, accepted the proclamation.

WOMEN'S
EQUALITY
DAY
(AUG. 26, 2007)

Ms. Herbert related a story about her great grandmother when she went to vote for the first time in 1920. They also thanked the City Council for the proclamation and their continued support for the equality of all people.

PUBLIC HEARING

**CONDUCT THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF
SHERMAN, TEXAS, FOR THE TAX YEAR 2007**

Mayor Magers said the proposed tax rate remains constant at \$0.40 per \$100 valuation.

AD VALOREM
TAX RATE

No citizens appeared before the City Council to discuss the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the Tax Year 2007.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Terrence Steele to set for official approval the adoption of the Tax Rate for the Tax Year 2007 at the City Council Meeting on September 4, 2007. Second by Council Member Hughes.

COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 2007

VOTING AYE: Adami, Hughes, Smith, T. Steele, W. Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

INTRODUCTION AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

Mayor Magers introduced Ordinance 5475 and called for a public hearing:

ORD 5475
ANNUAL BUDGET

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2007, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008. PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER.

No citizens appeared before the City Council to discuss Ordinance 5475.

Mayor Magers thanked the staff for the proposed Budget adding that there was no proposed increase in solid waste rates, water rates, or the tax rate, and the Budget was balanced.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Hughes to set for official approval the adoption of the Ordinance for the appropriation of funds for the operating and capital expenditures for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2008, at the City Council Meeting on September 4, 2007. Second by Council Member Terrence Steele.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Hughes, Smith, T. Steele, W. Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

TABLED AT THE JULY 16, 2007 MEETING:

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Adami to remove Ordinance No. 5470 from table for discussion. Second by Council Member Wacker.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Hughes, T. Steele, W. Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: Smith.

MOTION CARRIED TO REMOVE FROM TABLE.

ORD 5470
NO PARKING
SIGNS

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 5470

Mayor Magers called for a public hearing of Ordinance 5470:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT "NO PARKING" SIGNS RESTRICTING PARKING ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE 1100 BLOCK OF WEST McGEE STREET WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN. PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY PROVISION. PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER. PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 2007

Jeff Miller, Director of Public Works, explained that the ordinance was proposed to provide for no parking in the 1100 and 1200 blocks of McGee Street. The area is a series of curves with a narrow 30 foot street.

When the ordinance was originally proposed, one resident told the Council the change would be a hardship for residents when their family and friends visited, if parking was not permitted.

In order to evaluate all safety issues involved, the Police Department conducted a series of parking and driving tests through the curve. Police Chief Tom Watt presented a video showing the effects of parking with cars driving through the curve and no parking with cars driving through the curve.

Chief Watt reminded Council Members that it is a violation of State law to cross the centerline of the street to pass a parked car. He outlined problems with allowing parking on both sides of McGee Street in that area.

Even though the original recommendation was no parking on both sides, Chief Watt said they have looked for some compromise to address citizen's concerns.

Mayor Magers asked what prompted the request for no parking. Chief Watt said it started with minor complaints by citizens to officers that were patrolling the area.

Chief Watt added that the original recommendation was good, however they met with the citizens that were concerned with no parking on both sides of the street and felt that they could make a compromise that would work for everyone.

Mr. Miller reiterated that the staff still recommended that there be no parking on McGee Street through the curve, however there are alternatives that the Council might want to consider.

He said that with the establishment of a 20 mph through the curve, some potential parking areas could be allowed. He presented a map that designated some potential parking areas. In these parking areas, the center of the street would also need to be restriped and speed limit signs with flashing lights would need to be added.

Mr. Miller added that since the last Council Meeting, two letters of support for the parking have been received from citizens.

Council Members discussed the three options, which were to leave the area as it is, to designate no parking on both sides through the curve, or to designate no parking on one side of the street and change the centerline.

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Chief Watt said part of the problem is that the area through the curve is only 31 feet wide.

Council Member Willie Steele received a call from a citizen that lives on Kessler Street who is having trouble leaving his driveway because cars are now parking on Kessler so as not to park on McGee Street.

Council Member Smith verified that the only traffic accident in the last two years was not in the curve area and was caused by speed.

The staff's recommendation was to designate no parking on McGee Street through the curve.

No citizens appeared before the City Council to discuss Ordinance 5470.

The Ordinances were introduced and the Public Hearing was closed.

CLOSE PUBLIC
HEARING

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance 5470

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT "NO PARKING" SIGNS RESTRICTING PARKING ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE 1100 BLOCK OF WEST MCGEE STREET WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN. PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY PROVISION. PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER. PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

ORD 5470
NO PARKING
SIGNS
(DIED FOR LACK
OF A MOTION)

ACTION TAKEN.

Ordinance 5470 died for lack of a motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Council reviewed the Consent Agenda. Council Member Hughes moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Second by Council Member Willie Steele. All present voted AYE.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 5065 – ADOPTING AN INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF SHERMAN

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, ADOPTING AN INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF SHERMAN.

CONSENT AGENDA.

RES 5065
INVESTMENT
POLICY

RESOLUTION NO. 5066 – AMENDING THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES TO INVEST CITY OF SHERMAN FUNDS WITH THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL (TEXPOOL)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AMENDING THE AUTHORIZED

RES 5066
AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVES
TO INVEST CITY
FUNDS

REPRESENTATIVES TO INVEST CITY OF SHERMAN FUNDS
WITH THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT
POOL (TEXPOOL).
CONSENT AGENDA.

RESOLUTION NO. 5067 – AMENDING THE AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVES TO INVEST CITY OF SHERMAN FUNDS
WITH WELLS FARGO BROKERAGE SERVICES, LLC
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SHERMAN, TEXAS, AMENDING THE AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVES TO INVEST CITY OF SHERMAN FUNDS
WITH WELLS FARGO BROKERAGE SERVICES, LLC.
CONSENT AGENDA.

RES 5067
AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVES
TO INVEST CITY
FUNDS

RESOLUTION NO. 5068 – AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A
DEED WITHOUT WARRANTY TO AUSTIN COLLEGE FOR
THE CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY BEING WILLIAMS
STREET, FROM PORTER STREET TO WILLOW STREET;
THAT ALL SURVEYING COSTS INCURRED WILL BE PAID BY
AUSTIN COLLEGE
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A DEED
WITHOUT WARRANTY TO AUSTIN COLLEGE FOR THE
CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY BEING WILLIAMS STREET,
FROM PORTER STREET TO WILLOW STREET. THAT ALL
SURVEYING COSTS INCURRED WILL BE PAID BY AUSTIN
COLLEGE.

RES 5068
CONVEY STREET
TO AUSTIN COLLEGE

Heidi Ellis, Austin College Vice President of Business
Affairs, appeared to answer any questions that the City
Council might have.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Terrence Steele to approve
Resolution No. 5068, as presented. Second by Council
Member Smith.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Hughes, Smith, T. Steele, W. Steele.

VOTING NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: Wacker.

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 5069 – AWARDING A BID TO AND
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH
HOWARD CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE WEST
WASHINGTON STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SHERMAN, TEXAS, AWARDING A BID TO AND
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH
HOWARD CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE WEST
WASHINGTON STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT.
CONSENT AGENDA.

RES 5069
WASHINGTON
STREET WATER
MAIN

RESOLUTION NO. 5070 – AWARDING A BID TO AND
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH
VESSELS CONSTRUCTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE
SOLID WASTE PARKING LOT PHASE III PROJECT

RES 5070
SOLID WASTE
PARKING LOT

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AWARDED A BID TO AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH VESSELS CONSTRUCTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOLID WASTE PARKING LOT PHASE III PROJECT.
CONSENT AGENDA.

RESOLUTION NO. 5071 – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BARTON CAPITAL, LTD. FOR THE ABATEMENT OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE AT 708 EAST SYCAMORE STREET

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BARTON CAPITAL, LTD. FOR THE ABATEMENT OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE AT 708 EAST SYCAMORE STREET.
CONSENT AGENDA.

RES 5071
RESIDENTIAL
TAX ABATEMENT
(708 E. SYCAMORE)

RESOLUTION NO. 5072 – NOMINATING A CANDIDATE TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE GRAYSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, NOMINATING A CANDIDATE TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE GRAYSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

RES 5072
APPRAISAL DIST.
REPRESENTATIVE
(TABLED)

Mayor Magers explained that the nomination was to fill an unexpired term on the Grayson Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. He felt the person appointed would also be considered for permanent appointment in October.

Since votes are based on property tax, Sherman does not have enough votes to elect someone to the Board. In the past, Sherman has joined with one of the other entities to elect someone from Sherman.

The candidate must be nominated by September 16, so Mayor Magers recommended that Council Members table the Resolution and consider a nomination at the next City Council Meeting on September 4, 2007.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Steele to table Resolution No. 5072, until the next City Council Meeting. Second by Council Member Wacker.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Hughes, Smith, T. Steele, W. Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED TO TABLE.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE
2007 BIOSOLIDS PROJECT FOR THE SHERMAN
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

REQ TO ADVERTISE
BIOSOLIDS PROJECT

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The City Council approved the request to advertise for the 2007 Biosolids Project for the Sherman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

After treatment in the digester complex, biosolids are temporarily stored in four large storage and dewatering basins. The biosolids are loaded, processed, transported, and spread on agricultural land.

CONSENT AGENDA.

OTHER BUSINESS

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM TXDOT SHERMAN AREA ENGINEER KEVIN HARRIS ON TXDOT PROJECTS

Kevin Harris, Texas Department of Transportation Area Engineer, presented an update on area TxDOT projects.

TXDOT PROJECT
UPDATE

Current projects include F.M. 131, the intersection rework at Travis Street and Lamberth Road. When completed the project will add left-hand turn lanes in all four directions. Scheduled completion should be before Thanksgiving 2007.

Another project is the U.S. 75 slope repair at F.M. 131. The project is almost complete but will include a nine month maintenance period that has not yet begun.

At the close of the maintenance period, Mr. Harris would like to meet with the City of Sherman and the Keep Sherman Beautiful Commission about possible adoption of the area and the installation of “welcome to Sherman” signage.

TxDOT recently completed some safety projects for lighting on U.S. 75 and S.H. 82 mainly at the ramps on the S.H. 82 extension east of U.S. 75.

Work has begun at the intersection of S.H. 56 and F.M. 1417 and the project will include four diamond ramps and will eliminate the current ramp confusion. The project is scheduled for one year completion. The project will make that entryway into Sherman very attractive.

Lane closures have begun on U.S. 75 northbound and TxDOT will be working on the bridges. The work should be completed in a couple of months.

Mr. Harris said upcoming projects will include a project on U.S. 75 from F.M. 902 to Travis Street, which will include milling out the potholes and, if funding is available, completing a resurfacing project in the Spring of 2008.

TxDOT will also approve a contract for concrete repair on U.S. 75. The highway is experiencing very heavy traffic and needs repair.

Mr. Harris said he is trying to get support for a ramp reversal project on U.S. 75 southbound from Loy Lake Road to U.S. 82. The City of Sherman and the Sherman Economic

Development Corporation have supported the project, but he is still working to secure funding. With the lane reversal project, traffic will flow better from southbound U.S. 75 to westbound U.S. 82. The frontage roads in front of the Sherman Town Center handle a lot of traffic and become congested. If funding can be secured, the project could be scheduled for Spring 2008.

Another project that should be contracted in November 2007 is the mill and overlay of F.M. 131 (Travis Street), from U.S. 75 to just north of Taylor Street where the street narrows. The project will culminate with a two inch overlay and will include new restriping from Kam Korner's. Mr. Harris also thanked the City of Sherman for their work with the Travis Street corridor.

A major project on U.S. 82 should be contracted in January 2008, from F.M. 1417 east out three miles to Bethany Road. The project will include the westbound lanes of the divided highway system. Bethany Road is the eastern boundary of the urbanized area and funding is available for the urbanized area.

In July 2008, TxDOT has scheduled a project to widen the F.M. 1417 railroad spur bridge next to the old Johnson & Johnson facility.

In September 2008, two bridges will be replaced on the east frontage road of U.S. 75, south of F.M. 1417. The Choctaw Creek Bridge and the Old Highway 5 East Frontage Road Bridge will be replaced and realigned.

Mr. Harris said he hopes to secure funding for a major project through Sherman on U.S. 75 from Center Street to Travis Street. The project would rebuild the main lanes and remove and replace vertical designs. Funding does not look good so the project may be a longer range project.

TxDOT does have bridge funding for that corridor and will address the bridges in that area. The problem will be coordinating the bridge project with the future project to address the main lanes.

In Grayson County, a structure study is planned by the Grayson County Regional Mobility Authority for the extension of the tollway through Grayson County. They are now working to obtain the donation of the right-of-way.

Mr. Harris emphasized that the bridges in Grayson and Fannin Counties are safe. There are three Grayson County bridges that have been categorized as structurally deficient, but they are still safe. They include the U.S. 75 bridge northbound at Park Street, one in Denison at the viaduct, and one at a box culvert in Denison. All three are safe.

Mr. Harris added that a conference he recently attended emphasized the need to “eliminate the Friday night football rivalries” and work together on current and future transportation needs to build a strong region.

Deputy Mayor Adami asked about mowing of the medians by the access road of U.S. 75 between Travis and Houston Streets. Mr. Harris said TxDOT has three cycles of mowing, but because of the weather they are behind. U.S. 75 has been mowed once and they are currently beginning the second cycle. The third cycle is set for October. They have also sprayed to kill the Johnson Grass.

Deputy Mayor Adami also asked about potholes at the Houston Street exit, heading south off of U.S. 75 that have arisen since the flooding.

He also asked about the exit off U.S. 75 near Sam’s Club, saying the safety grid or “rumble strip” that was in place to keep drivers off the median is now located at the exit ramp. Mr. Harris said there are plans to fill those in but they currently serve as a warning to be careful if drivers are using that exit.

TxDOT is still working with the Woodmont Corporation to build a third lane on the frontage road from Sam’s driveway past the drive on the north side of the Loy Lake Road intersection

Council Member Terrence Steele asked if the old ramp in the ramp reversal project would remain in place. Mr. Harris said the paving has been left there to save money on the project and was a compromise with the third party funding. In time it will probably be removed.

Mayor Magers especially thanked Mr. Harris and TxDOT for the mill and overlay project on F.M. 131, from Sam Rayburn to Taylor Street. He felt that area would really aide in the growth impact for Sherman, Denison, and Knollwood. Mr. Harris agreed that it was also a priority for him.

**RECEIVE EMPLOYEE GROUP BENEFITS PRESENTATION
FROM P. TODD DORTON OF FIDELITY BENEFITS &
INSURANCE SERVICES**

**EMPLOYEE
HEALTH BENEFITS**

P. Todd Dorton, CEO/President of Fidelity Benefits & Insurance Services, was hired by the City to perform a comprehensive fee based request for proposal (RFP) for employee group benefits.

The current benefit plan was reviewed, the criteria was determined, and the RFP was distributed electronically to many carriers and to all local agents or consultants that wanted to bid.

After receipt, the submissions were analyzed and rates and benefits were evaluated. Four carrier interviews were

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conducted with the finalists Group & Pension Administrators, Inc., Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Aetna, and Cigna.

Mr. Dorton explained that during the interviews, Aetna presented an excellent quote but ultimately could only fulfill one out of the five promises they made.

Group & Pension Administrators, Inc. is the City's current administrator and they have done a good job and offer a good reinsurance program through Symetra with three years of fixed cost on the administrative agreement.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas presented good quotes and discounts, but only wanted to process the claims and use GPA's reinsurance. They also have expensive administrative costs.

Cigna presented good discounts and has a local office, but they could not "carve out" the prescription drug costs.

Mr. Dorton discussed the Pharmacy Benefit Manager that will encourage the use of generic drugs, if allowed by the doctor, and will encourage mail order prescriptions, in many cases, at no charge to the employee or retiree. The mail order drug program is based out of San Antonio, Texas.

He estimated that the City will save approximately \$206,000 annually through the management of four classes of medications. The program also allows for continued use of the name brand medication, if the doctor determines that is best for the patient.

If an employee chooses to purchase the name brand drug, even after the doctor says the generic is okay, then the employee would pay the difference between the cost of the drug and the City's cost for the approved generic.

Deputy Mayor Adami asked for clarification on Cigna's quote and the fact that they wouldn't "carve out" the prescription drug costs. Mr. Dorton explained in more detail, adding that Cigna also was \$200,000 more expensive on their fixed costs.

Mr. Dorton recommended that the City stay with their current provider, GPA, with the PTRX prescription program. Council Members discussed specifics about the proposals.

Robby Hefton, Assistant City Manager/CFO, said the staff is recommending that the City stay with GPA but change the company that reinsures the insurance. A contract will be presented to the Council at a meeting in September for consideration. The staff is also recommending that the employee and retiree insurance rates not increase. This is

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currently included in the proposed budget for FY 2007-2008, and leaves a “very healthy” fund balance in the Insurance Fund.

REVIEW DRAFT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) 2007-2012

DRAFT CIP

Mayor Magers asked if the City Council had any questions on the proposed Capital Improvement Program. Projects have been discussed during the Budget Work Session. Council Members did not have any additional questions.

CONSIDER SCHEDULING A JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE SHERMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 12:00 NOON ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007, TO REVIEW SEDCO'S ANNUAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

SET JOINT MEETING WITH SEDCO

Mayor Magers said SEDCO has agreed to provide the funding for a project to move water and sewer north on U.S. 75. The City will provide information to SEDCO on the proposed project.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Wacker to schedule a Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Sherman Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors for 12:00 noon on Friday, September 14, 2007, as presented.

Second by Council Member Terrence Steele.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Hughes, Smith, T. Steele, W. Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

CITIZENS REQUESTS
SUPPORT FOR FIRE CHIEF

SUPPORT FOR FIRE CHIEF

Danny Jones, P.O. Box 972, Colbert, Oklahoma, asked to speak in support of Fire Chief Jeff Jones. Doreen McGooley, City Attorney, explained that the item is listed for discussion in Executive Session. The Council can receive comments from Mr. Jones but cannot discuss what is considered in Executive Session.

Mr. Jones said he has served under six Fire Chiefs over a 21 year period as a firefighter/paramedic and he said Chief Jones is the best chief under which he has served. His integrity, honor, and dedication to the fire service and this department are second to none.

In many departments, Mr. Jones said the Fire Chief distances himself from the rank and file, but this is not the case with Chief Jones. Chief Jones tries to relate on a brotherly level while still maintaining his status as their department head.

He added that Chief Jones is fair in his treatment of all the firemen and has attempted to raise the department to a very high level. Prior to the current investigation, Mr. Jones said the moral of the Fire Department was as high as it has ever

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been. Since the onset of the investigation, the moral is as low as he has ever experienced.

He outlined discussions he had with Chief Jones during trying times of service.

Mr. Jones added that Chief Jones has contributed many long hours to projects that would benefit the men in the Fire Department, told the Council they are fortunate to have Chief Jones as the leader of the Fire Department, and said he is an asset that should not be lost.

He asked Council Members to consider the source of the accusations and to consider what is best for the City and the Fire Department, and return Chief Jones to his duties.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

McGEE STREET NO PARKING SIGNS

Kathy Williams, Herald Democrat Reporter, asked for clarification on the decision about no parking signs on the McGee Street curve. Does that mean it will return to parking on both sides or the “test zone” with no parking?

Mayor Magers said the no parking signs are not permanent until they are approved by ordinance. Since the ordinance was not approved the test signs will be removed and parking will be allowed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

TXDOT PROJECT UPDATE

Deputy Mayor Adami thanked Mr. Harris for presenting the update on TxDOT projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551, GOVT. CODE, V.T.C.S., (OPEN MEETINGS LAW)

THE CITY COUNCIL WILL NOW HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, CHAPTER 551, GOVERNMENT CODE, VERNONS TEXAS CODES ANNOTATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS.

SECTION 551.071 --

CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY
ATTORNEY CONCERNING
LEGAL MATTERS:
RECEIVE UPDATE ON FIRE CHIEF
INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

DISCUSS PROPOSED
SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURE
ORDINANCE

SECTION 551.074 --

PERSONNEL MATTERS:
RECEIVE UPDATE ON FIRE CHIEF
INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

McGEE STREET
NO PARKING

TXDOT PROJECT
UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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On Motion duly made and carried, the Open Meeting recessed and reconvened in Executive Session at 6:21 p.m.

On Motion duly made and carried, the Executive Session recessed at 7:26 p.m. and reconvened in Open Meeting.

OPEN MEETING

Reconvene into Open Meeting and take action, if any, on items discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Magers said no action will be taken on discussions in Executive Session, however the City Manager will make a statement in the near future concerning the internal investigation of Fire Chief Jeff Jones.

ADJOURNMENT

On Motion duly made and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR

CITY CLERK