

STATE OF TEXAS

§

December 15, 2008

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 December 15, 2008.

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR BILL MAGERS; DEPUTY MAYOR CARY WACKER.
COUNCIL MEMBERS ADAMI, HOWETH, SMITH, SOFTLY,
STEELE.

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Magers called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation were given by Deputy Mayor Cary Wacker.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE MINUTES

The Council reviewed the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of December 1, 2008. Deputy Mayor Wacker moved to approve the Minutes as presented; Second by Council Member Softly. All present voted AYE.
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MINUTES

CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT AND
REMOVAL OF MEMBERS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:
TRI-COUNTY SENIOR NUTRITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(1)

Mayor Magers said in February 2007 the Mayors of Sherman, Denison, and Bonham, and the County Judges of Grayson, Cooke, and Fannin Counties joined together to serve on the Tri-County Senior Nutrition Board of Directors and over see the Meals on Wheels Program.

TRI-COUNTY
SENIOR NUTRITION
BOARD

In Fiscal Year 2006-2007, Tri-County ended with a deficit of \$10,000. In Fiscal Year 2007-2008, they ended with a surplus of \$67,000. Over \$100,000 was cut from the overhead costs and bank accounts were reduced from 16 to 2. They also increased transparency and accountability. Mayor Magers said all Federal guidelines are now being met for the Meals on Wheels Program.

The elected officials agreed that once the issues had been addressed they would remove themselves from the Board. He introduced Kathey Scott, Executive Director of Tri-County Senior Nutrition.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Wacker to appoint Phyllis Hicks to the Tri-County Senior Nutrition Board of Directors for a term from December 16, 2008 to September 30, 2009. Second by Council Member Adami.

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VOTING AYE: Adami, Howeth, Smith, Softly, Steele, Wacker.
VOTING NAY: None.
MOTION CARRIED.

INTRODUCTION AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

Mayor Magers introduced Ordinance 5581 and called for a public hearing:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AMENDING SECTION 8, SUBSECTION (5)(A), ORDINANCE NO. 2280, SO AS TO GRANT A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT TO ALLOW AUTOMOBILE SALES AND AN IMPOUND LOT IN A C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) DISTRICT AT 4026 TEXOMA PARKWAY, BEING 2.85 ACRES IN THE W.F. PATTERSON SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 969 (UTTER PROPERTIES, LTD., OWNER AND DAVID PRYOR, REPRESENTATIVE); PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER; PROVIDING THAT THIS SPECIFIC USE PERMIT SHALL BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS; PROVIDING A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.

ORD 5581
SUP FOR
AUTO SALES

No citizens appeared before the City Council to discuss Ordinance 5581.

Mayor Magers introduced Ordinance 5582 and called for a public hearing:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM, REASONABLE AND PRUDENT RATES OF SPEED ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF BINKLEY PARK DRIVE IN THE CITY OF SHERMAN; FIXING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER.

ORD 5582
SPEED LIMIT
ON BINKLEY
PARK DR.

No citizens appeared before the City Council to discuss Ordinance 5582.

The Ordinances were introduced and the Public Hearing was closed.

CLOSE PUBLIC
HEARING

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance 5581

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AMENDING SECTION 8, SUBSECTION (5)(A), ORDINANCE NO. 2280, SO AS TO GRANT A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT TO ALLOW AUTOMOBILE SALES AND AN IMPOUND LOT IN A C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) DISTRICT AT 4026 TEXOMA PARKWAY, BEING 2.85 ACRES IN THE W.F. PATTERSON SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 969 (UTTER PROPERTIES, LTD., OWNER AND DAVID PRYOR, REPRESENTATIVE); PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER; PROVIDING THAT THIS SPECIFIC USE PERMIT SHALL BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS; PROVIDING A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.

ORD 5581
SUP FOR
AUTO SALES

Ordinance 5582

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM, REASONABLE AND PRUDENT RATES OF SPEED ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF BINKLEY PARK DRIVE IN THE CITY OF SHERMAN; FIXING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER.

ORD 5582
SPEED LIMIT
ON BINKLEY
PARK DR.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Smith to approve Ordinance Nos. 5581 and 5582, as presented. Second by Council Member Howeth.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Howeth, Smith, Softly, Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 5299 – SUPPORTING A HERITAGE OF ARCHERY HUNTING AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, SUPPORTING A HERITAGE OF ARCHERY HUNTING AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS.

RES 5299
ARCHERY HUNTING
& WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION

Hunter Graham, 112 Chrissa Drive, Pottsboro

Mr. Graham is a member of the Grayson County Whitetail Association. Earlier this year a Tarrant County resident petitioned Texas Parks and Wildlife to declare a rifle season in Grayson County. Currently Grayson County is the only county in Texas that has a general hunting season for whitetail deer, but doesn't allow a rifle season. The hunting season is by archery only.

Mr. Graham said his organization feels it is important to keep the heritage of the season archery only. Grayson County does not have a very large population of whitetail deer. There are approximately 210 participants that visit Hagerman Wildlife Refuge annually for the archery draw, which brings in economic dollars from other surrounding states.

Also, within the City limits of Sherman, if you have 10 acres of property you can shotgun hunt for white-winged dove or mourning dove. He expressed concern that someone might be hunting with a high-powered rifle on only 10 acres of property in the City limits.

Mr. Graham said his request is being supported by the Grayson County Judge and Commissioners, Senator Craig

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Estes, and Representative Larry Phillips. Other local cities are also supporting the measure.

Deputy Mayor Wacker said she is aware of several citizens that are supporting the archery only measure and feel that it is a very good heritage to have in Grayson County.

Council Member Steele verified that there is a public forum on the issue scheduled for January 8, 2009, at 7 p.m. at Grayson County College.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Steele to approve Resolution No. 5299, as presented. Second by Council Member Adami.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Howeth, Smith, Softly, Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 5300 – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF 2008 SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT NUMBER 08-SR-67496-02 WITH THE GOVERNOR’S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR THE RECEIPT OF A FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF 2008 SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT NUMBER 08-SR-67496-02 WITH THE GOVERNOR’S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR THE RECEIPT OF A FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT.

RES 5300
HOMELAND
SECURITY GRANT

Mayor Magers verified that the grant was for \$184,558 for homeland security.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Wacker to approve Resolution No. 5300, as presented. Second by Council Member Softly.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Howeth, Smith, Softly, Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 5301 – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF OUTSTANDING WARRANTS, CITATIONS, AND CAPIAS PRO FINES

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF OUTSTANDING WARRANTS, CITATIONS, AND CAPIAS PRO FINES.

RES 5301
COLLECTION OF
FINES

Council Member Adami asked for clarification on the proposed agreement.

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George Olson, City Manager, explained that the agreement was for the collection of outstanding court issues such as warrants and tickets. The agreement calls for a 20% to 30% additional fee on top of the collections.

Robby Hefton, Assistant City Manager/CFO, added that the company gets paid only if they collect these fees and their payment is in addition to the amount collected for the City.

Mr. Hefton added that typically the company will only receive collectables that are overdue by 180 days or more, however, this policy can be adjusted at will.

Mayor Magers emphasized that this is only for collectables that are outstanding and not being paid.
CONSENT AGENDA.

RESOLUTION NO. 5302 – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT UTILITY SERVICES, EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES, AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF SHERMAN
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT UTILITY SERVICES, EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES, AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF SHERMAN.

RES 5302
COLLECTION OF
DELINQUENT FEES
FOR SERVICES

Council Member Adami asked for clarification on the proposed agreement.

Mr. Olson said the agreement is for collection of delinquent utility and ambulance bills. It is a 20% collection fee for the amount collected but comes out of the amount received.
CONSENT AGENDA.

RESOLUTION NO. 5303 – AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CP&Y, INC. FOR DESIGN OF THE WASHINGTON STREET WEST PROJECT
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CP&Y, INC. FOR DESIGN OF THE WASHINGTON STREET WEST PROJECT.

RES 5303
WASHINGTON
STREET PROJECT

Council Member Howeth asked how long the bridge would be closed during the construction project. Jeff Miller, Director of Public Works, said the construction project could last up to six months. Council Members knew the bridge needed to be replaced and the project was very much needed.

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ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Smith to approve Resolution No. 5303, as presented. Second by Council Member Howeth.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Howeth, Smith, Softly, Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 5304 – APPROVING THE GREATER TEXOMA UTILITY AUTHORITY'S INTENTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH QUALITY EXCAVATION, LTD. FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE U.S. HIGHWAY 75 NORTH WATER MAIN BETWEEN GRAHAM DRIVE AND S.H. 691

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, APPROVING THE GREATER TEXOMA UTILITY AUTHORITY'S INTENTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH QUALITY EXCAVATION, LTD. FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE U.S. HIGHWAY 75 NORTH WATER MAIN BETWEEN GRAHAM DRIVE AND S.H. 691.

RES 5304
HWY 75 NORTH
WATER MAIN
EXTENSION

Mayor Magers verified that this project was the first phase of the Highway 75 Water Main Project and that the estimated construction time for the project was four months and that construction should start in March 2009. Mark Gibson, Director of Utilities, added that the project includes both sides of Highway 75.

Mayor Magers explained that the project will take water and sewer mains along Highway 75 to Highway 691 on both the east and west sides of the highway, which will open the area for future development.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Wacker to approve Resolution No. 5304, as presented. Second by Council Member Adami.

VOTING AYE: Adami, Howeth, Smith, Softly, Steele, Wacker.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 5305 – AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TIMOTHY L. MORRIS, P.E. D/B/A MORRIS ENGINEERS FOR DESIGN OF THE WILLOW STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TIMOTHY L. MORRIS, P.E. D/B/A MORRIS ENGINEERS FOR DESIGN OF THE WILLOW STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

CONSENT AGENDA.

RES 5305
WILLOW STREET
WATER MAIN
REPLACEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 5306 – AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENCROACHMENT EASEMENT TO AMY COFFMAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SWIMMING POOL IN A UTILITY AND

RES 5306
SWIMMING POOL
ENCROACHMENT

DRAINAGE EASEMENT IN BLOCK 3, LOT 7 OF THE PEBBLEBROOK ADDITION, PHASE 1B TO THE CITY OF SHERMAN (1825 PEBBLEBROOK LANE)

(1825 PEBBLEBROOK)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENCROACHMENT EASEMENT TO AMY COFFMAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SWIMMING POOL IN A UTILITY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT IN BLOCK 3, LOT 7 OF THE PEBBLEBROOK ADDITION, PHASE 1B TO THE CITY OF SHERMAN (1825 PEBBLEBROOK LANE).
CONSENT AGENDA.

OTHER BUSINESS

RECEIVE QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT FROM SHERMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN GREG KIRKPATRICK AND SEDCO PRESIDENT JOHN BOSWELL

QUARTERLY SEDCO
REPORT

Greg Kirkpatrick, Sherman Economic Development Corporation Vice Chairman, presented a quarterly progress report on the Board's activities. He said the volume is down from other years because of the economic conditions. SEDCO has two prospect proposals out for review to two separate companies.

SEDCO continues to follow-up on leads from trade shows they have attended and have been working with local businesses to track how the economy is affecting current jobs.

Council Member Adami asked if they expect low sales tax receipts for the fourth quarter. Mr. Kirkpatrick said they expect the sales tax to continue to slow down, but it probably won't effect anything "on the table."

RECEIVE TOURISM PRESENTATION FROM ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/CFO ROBBY HEFTON

TOURISM

Mr. Hefton presented a report on the Tourism Department. During the last budget work session, the City Council directed the staff to prepare a plan to bring tourism in-house.

Areas that the staff felt needed more attention include public accountability, a focus on effectiveness, and greater operating efficiencies. The main aim of tourism is to put "heads in beds." He felt tourism should be a marketing function and should work with other local groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Sherman Council for the Arts and Humanities, the Downtown Sherman Preservation and Revitalization organization, Austin College, and Grayson County College.

Mr. Hefton felt the City's energy should be focused on doing a few things very well. The plan includes six areas on which the staff is proposing to focus. These include the unique heritage of the City's cultural and historic assets such as Kidd-Key Auditorium, the Municipal Ballroom, downtown, Austin College, Red River Historical Museum, and the

Historic District; conventions and group tours; and festivals and events such as sports tournaments, the Sherman Independent School District, Sherman Youth Sports, Parks and Recreation, and the new facilities at Center Street, Old Settlers Park, and Pecan Grove Park. He also felt the City should be involved in marketing events and not operating events.

Mr. Hefton added that events such as Hot Summer Nights are very successful and the staff was not proposing to discontinue the event. They will be looking for ways to partner with other entities to help leverage programs they already have in place.

Other areas on which to focus include a more efficient Tourism Hospitality Center located in the Touch of Class Antique Mall; a renewed focus on relationships and joint marketing opportunities with the hotel/motel managers, Chamber of Commerce, SCAH, DSP&R, and the Museum; and information feedback from hotels, group tours, and event participants.

Mr. Hefton felt the proposed plan was “a good place to start” and he asked for flexibility to modify the plan as needed. Tourism should be a marketing plan.

He added that the administrative offices for tourism would be located on the same floor as Kidd-Key Auditorium. Moving the facilities to existing facilities will help reduce the administrative costs. In the past, Mr. Hefton said the City has spent almost two-thirds of the budget on administrative activities and one-third on program and marketing activities.

By combining these operations and using City facilities and utilities, only about one-third of the budget should be spent on administrative activities and two-thirds will be available for program and marketing activities. Mayor Magers verified that the proposed \$199,000 budget for tourism would be dollars devoted to tourism and is net of all other things including debt service.

Council Member Smith verified that the entire Hotel/Motel Tax Budget is approximately \$450,000 with a portion going to debt service and the remainder going to other programs.

Council Member Adami verified that approximately \$239,175 was allocated for tourism last year.

Mr. Hefton reiterated that the plan is a starting point and flexibility will be needed so the plan can be modified.

Mayor Magers added that Deputy Mayor Wacker and Council Member Smith spent countless hours on tourism and he thanked them for their hard work. Council Member Smith also recognized the dedication and hard work of Former Council Member Terrence Steele.

Mayor Magers said Hotel/Motel Tax money is City revenue and the Council is fiscally responsible for those funds. He urged everyone to support the proposed program.

Deputy Mayor Wacker recognized the staff for analyzing the needs and using the strengths to leverage assets. Mayor Magers added that the proposed plan would “free up” \$60,000 for the budget.

Council Member Smith recognized Mr. Olson and Mr. Hefton for their work on this transition adding that it might be “rocky.” However, services don’t need to be duplicated and the focus should be on getting things here instead of working on events.

Dr. Tom Nuckols, 2341 Canyon Creek

Dr. Nuckols commended the philosophy of the tourism report and marketing the City and historical assets, but urged a focus on downtown. Historical assets include not only the downtown area, but the residential area and Kidd-Key Auditorium. Dr. Nuckols said the City is recognizing the historical aspect of Austin College with the Brockett Street improvements.

He presented ideas he has for more effectively marketing and using the resources and collaboration. He added that members of Downtown Sherman Preservation and Revitalization have some concerns.

He did not feel that DSP&R had adequate input in the decision to move the information center and he felt it was vital to keep the center on the downtown square where it would have high visibility. He added that the idea to use Touch of Class Antique Mall was his idea.

Dr. Nuckols said the City has stopped the funding for a staff member for DSP&R and because of this they are trying to reorganize. They are having difficulty in getting volunteers involved.

According to Dr. Nuckols, one reason they are having trouble getting volunteers is that they have tried for years to get flower boxes in the downtown area.

Mayor Magers said the City has never made a promise to DSP&R that they haven’t kept. The Council has done everything they promised and are currently working on the program. He added that the City has waited on DSP&R to present a plan for the planter boxes. The bonds for street lighting should be issued after the first of the year.

Dr. Nuckols said the continued discussions have discouraged participation by volunteers. He said the latest study commissioned with focus groups placed a priority emphasis on economic development, aesthetics, and on downtown Sherman.

Dr. Nuckols linked these areas with tourism. He said there is a tremendous opportunity to link these areas by focusing on the aesthetics of downtown Sherman and on the Brockett Street improvements. He urged that beautification of the corridors be emphasized, including large signs directing visitors to the downtown area.

He added that the façade of some of the downtown buildings is in terrible shape and something needs to be done to restore them. Dr. Nuckols said a focus needs to be placed on improving the aesthetics of the downtown area. Two of the three restaurants in downtown have now closed.

Mayor Magers said improvements were made to these buildings through a grant program that gave capital for matching funds and these improvements will be available for future investors. He added that the City has also addressed some public parking issues.

Mayor Magers said the City is taking steps and moving forward and by working together and continuing the dialogue they will continue to move forward. Downtown Sherman is a priority for the City Council.

Larry Morriss, 1404 Bentbrook Lane

Mr. Morriss currently serves as the Treasurer for the Sherman Symphony Board and he requested a change in funding for the entity. In the past they have relied on funding from private foundations; however that is becoming harder to find today.

In April 2008, Mr. Morriss said he approached the City Council to try to obtain additional funding from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund, similar to what is given to the Red River Historical Museum. This would include a separate line item from Hotel/Motel Tax which would give them a more stable footing on which to base their operations.

The Sherman Symphony Board's operational budget is approximately \$60,000 annually. In the past they have operated from the interest off a trust fund, however that trust fund has been reduced because of the economy and they can't afford to pull from the interest anymore.

Mr. Morriss asked the City Council to consider funding up to \$20,000 annually for the Sherman Symphony Board. They also receive \$5,000 annually from the Sherman Council for the Arts and Humanities. He added that they would be willing to report annually to the City Council.

Mayor Magers said by putting the Hotel/Motel Tax funding under the City staff, the Council hopes to depoliticize the funding process. He asked Mr. Hefton to meet with Mr. Morriss and to prepare a staff recommendation for the Council.

CONSIDER CALLING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009 AND TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009, DUE TO CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

SET CALLED
COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mayor Magers verified that the City of Sherman is open on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and on President's Day. In the past the City Council has moved Council Meetings on those holidays to the following Tuesday. Mr. Olson said last year there was discussion from the City Council about not moving those days since the City is open anyway.

Most Council Members felt that it made sense to leave the Council Meetings on Monday because the City was open anyway.

FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF O'HANLON RANCH ESTATES, PHASE 3; DGR DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LTD., OWNERS; VILBIG & ASSOCIATES, INC., ENGINEERS; AND SARTIN & ASSOCIATES, SURVEYORS [3000-3100 BLOCKS OF OVERLAND TRAIL, 2500-2800 BLOCKS OF F.M. 1417 NORTH (HERITAGE PARKWAY) AND THE 100 BLOCK OF SHADY OAKS LANE]

APPROVE FINAL PLAT
O'HANLON RANCH
ESTATES, PHASE 3

The City Council approved the Final Plat of the O'Hanlon Ranch Estates, Phase 3. The owner would like to plat the property into 41 lots for residential development. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Final Plat.

CONSENT AGENDA.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

CITIZENS REQUESTS

There were no citizen's requests.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no media questions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

DOWNTOWN SHERMAN PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION

DSP&R

Council Member Smith said he has been involved with DSP&R for about two and a half years and while Dr. Nuckols may believe that the City Council has "turned a deaf ear" to downtown, that is not true. For a year and a half he attended the meetings on a monthly basis and heard the discussion about the planter boxes.

A plan was developed for the planter boxes probably contrary to what some of the members wanted, but something had to be done.

Council Member Smith added that only a month ago members discussed new park benches, light poles, and trash receptacles and Dr. Nuckols has chosen to disregard this discussion.

Council Member Smith said while Dr. Nuckols has great intentions, he felt that he misspoke greatly today.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Council Member Adami wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Council Member Smith urged citizens to remember the reason for the season. Deputy Mayor Wacker also wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DOWNTOWN SHERMAN PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION

Deputy Mayor Wacker thanked Council Member Smith for his comments concerning DSP&R and said she felt the entire Council has been a team in trying to move things forward in downtown. She added that they also view all the groups they have worked with as partners. Progress has been made and she urged citizens to come forward with their ideas. As money permits and as the plan is appropriate, the Council will move forward.

DSP&R

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Council Member Softly wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

STORM DAMAGE

Council Member Howeth referenced the storm damage that the City of Denison recently suffered. She has received many questions about Sherman's alert system and the condition of the sirens, since Denison doesn't have a warning system.

Mr. Olson said Sherman's outdoor warning system is in excellent condition. About a year ago the City upgraded to a system that can be tested silently. He confirmed with Fire Chief Jeff Jones that the City performs an audible test of the sirens on the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. The system is also tested silently four times a day.

Council Member Howeth wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season

DOWNTOWN SHERMAN PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION

Deputy Mayor Magers said the opportunity for citizens to be heard without going through a filter is what makes local government so great. He added that Dr. Nuckols is passionate about downtown.

DSP&R

The Council has set Hotel/Motel Tax money aside to do certain things, including downtown restoration. He said he stands by that policy and doesn't feel that it is appropriate to use General Fund dollars to benefit a specific portion of Sherman.

The Hotel/Motel Tax Fund allows the Council to do things that might otherwise be out of reach for the downtown area. It's never fast enough and you always want to do more, but funds are limited.

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ADJOURNMENT

On Motion duly made and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR

CITY CLERK