

STATE OF TEXAS

§

February 17, 2014

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 February 17, 2014.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR CARY WACKER; DEPUTY MAYOR ROBERT
SOFTLY.
COUNCIL MEMBERS DAVIS, JOHNSON, PLYLER, SOFEY,
WATT.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

NONE.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wacker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation were given by Council Member David Plyler.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE MINUTES

The Council reviewed the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 20, 2014. Council Member Plyler moved to approve the Minutes as presented; Second by Deputy Mayor Softly. All present voted AYE.
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MINUTES

INTRODUCTION AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

Mayor Wacker introduced Ordinance 5809 and called for a public hearing:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR A PERMANENT "STOP" SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF HILRE DRIVE AND KNOLLWOOD DRIVE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY PROVISION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER.

ORD 5809
STOP SIGN

Nate Strauch, Herald Democrat Reporter, asked if there had been accidents at the intersection or why the City felt it was necessary to install a stop sign at this location.

Clay Barnett, Director of Public Work and Engineering, said the staff received a request from a citizen and found that a stop sign would meet the requirements of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The sign was installed and has been up for 90 days without incident.

Mr. Strauch asked why a stop sign was installed instead of a yield sign. Mr. Barnett said a stop sign is installed where you want traffic to actually stop and according to the Manual, that would be appropriate at this intersection.

No other citizens appeared before the City Council to discuss Ordinance 5809.

The Public Hearing was closed.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance 5809

ORD 5809
STOP SIGN

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR A PERMANENT “STOP” SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF HILRE DRIVE AND KNOLLWOOD DRIVE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY PROVISION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Watt to approve Ordinance No. 5809, as presented. Second by Council Member Johnson.

VOTING AYE: Davis, Johnson, Plyler, Sofey, Softly, Watt.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The Council reviewed the Consent Agenda. Council Member Plyler moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Second by Deputy Mayor Softly. All present voted AYE.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM POLICE CHIEF OTIS HENRY ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT’S RECRUITING INITIATIVE

POLICE RECRUITING
INITIATIVE

Otis Henry, Police Chief, presented a report on the Police Department’s Recruiting Initiative. He explained that one of the objectives with the initiative is to obtain the most highly qualified applicant available. Many agencies throughout the nation are currently having a hard time attracting quality applicants.

The Department’s challenge is “Standing for Something – Integrity, Courage, Teamwork.” He addressed their core values and said they demand these values in applicants as well as in their officers, and must have these to serve the citizens.

Chief Henry said a beginning entry level police test will be given on Saturday, April 19, 2014, at Sherman High School and at Broken Bow High School in Oklahoma. They realize they can’t compete for officers, with cities in the Mextroplex, but feel they can compete with cities in eastern Oklahoma, Texarkana, east Texas, and southern Arkansas. Chief Henry said they will be advertising in those areas.

Chief Henry said the objective of the new recruiting program is to effectively and efficiently reach and maintain the maximum staffing levels by hiring excellent people ultimately capable of delivering quality police services to the citizens of the community.

They also plan to change the application process. One change will be to modify the eligibility requirements to keep pace with the changes in society. He said the City has lost some good applicants because of some policies that were “overly strict.” By modifying the eligibility requirements they hope to recruit good quality applicants without lowering the standards.

Other changes include a new on-line registration questionnaire, a reduction in the initial paperwork, and making a study guide available to applicants to help them prepare for the written test.

Chief Henry said the lateral entry program is one of the proposed new programs, and will help Sherman attract experienced and certified officers. Applicants that are already certified officers with police experience will still have to submit to the background process and pass the written test, however after going through the Field Training Officer program, they will have “x number” of years of experience. He added that this will pay off in decision making, in a reduction of liability, and it makes the job easier for the other officers and supervisors that work with the new officer.

Another program is the satellite testing and advertising of the test, such as the one scheduled for Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

The Collegiate Officer Program is an Oklahoma program through the Kiamichi Vo-Tech, where future officers earn an Associate’s Degree and are ready to work for an Oklahoma agency. That would bring applicants with a degree and higher standards to the Sherman Police Department too. Approximately 15 people have already indicated their interest in testing for the Sherman Department.

Chief Henry said the Department is also in the process of producing a professional video to use as a recruitment tool.

At the end of the process, Chief Henry said they should have a police officer on the street that the City Council and staff can be proud of and that the citizens deserve.

Council Member Watt asked for clarification on the Field Training Officer program since that is where the lateral entry applicant will get the training needed for Sherman. Chief Henry said all the applicants will go through the FTO training, which is a very intensive 17 week program where they work with a Field Training Officer every day during that period. They are also graded every day in 25 categories. It’s every stressful, but at the end of the training, the officer is ready to do the job.

Deputy Mayor Softly asked about veterans. Chief Henry said the City of Sherman is a State Civil Service 143 City and as

such, a veteran who takes and passes the test and has an honorable discharge, receives five bonus points.

Council Member Sofey asked how he planned to “modify the eligibility.” Chief Henry said when modifying the eligibility they looked at several areas. One area was the usage of marijuana. The old rule was that a person was ineligible if they had smoked marijuana within the last five years. If they had smoked marijuana 21 times in a lifetime, they were permanently disqualified.

After much discussion, they realized that kids in school might smoke marijuana, but they might graduate and still do positive things in their life, and it's not fair to hold that over their head for the rest of their life. Sherman followed many other cities and said an applicant can't have smoked marijuana within the previous two years. Mayor Wacker verified that it is self-reported and also verified through polygraph.

She asked about the incentive that was being requested with Resolution 5837 for the lateral pay for experienced officers. Chief Henry explained that the applicants must meet certain criteria. They must have a minimum of two years experience and no more than three years experience, and then they would start in Sherman at the three year patrol pay level, which is an increase in seniority pay.

To qualify for the lateral pay, they must be certified through the State of Texas. If an applicant is certified in Oklahoma, they would still have to attend the Police Academy. In the long run, this would save the City time and effort, and in the case of Texas certified peace officers, it would also save money. He added that this would reward an officer for experience and might be the enticement they need to come to Sherman to work.

Council Member Watt said it is a deterrent for officers to move to another department because they have to start over again. Mayor Wacker added that this would help make Sherman competitive.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 5837 – REVOKING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION NO. 5798; ESTABLISHING SALARY STRUCTURES AND INCENTIVE/CERTIFICATION PAY SCHEDULES FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND PATROLMEN; ESTABLISHING SPECIAL LONGEVITY PAY SCHEDULES FOR SOME NEWLY-HIRED PATROLMEN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, REVOKING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION NO. 5798; ESTABLISHING SALARY STRUCTURES AND INCENTIVE/CERTIFICATION PAY SCHEDULES FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND PATROLMEN;

**RES 5837
PAY FOR
NEWLY-HIRED
POLICE OFFICERS**

ESTABLISHING SPECIAL LONGEVITY PAY SCHEDULES FOR SOME NEWLY-HIRED PATROLMEN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Watt to approve Resolution No. 5837, as presented. Second by Council Member Davis.

VOTING AYE: Davis, Johnson, Plyler, Sofey, Softly, Watt.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 5838 – AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MARIO TOBAR FOR THE ABATEMENT OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE AT 1013 NORTH MONTGOMERY STREET

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERMAN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MARIO TOBAR FOR THE ABATEMENT OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE AT 1013 NORTH MONTGOMERY STREET.

CONSENT AGENDA.

RES 5838
RESIDENTIAL TAX
ABATEMENT
(1013 N.
MONTGOMERY)

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE

WATER METERS

The City Council approved the request to advertise for the purchase of water meters for Sherman's Automated Meter Reading System. The City is requesting bids to establish a price agreement for the purchase of water meters ranging in size from 5/8" to 2". Water meters must be compatible with the ITRON MVRS automated meter reading system.

CONSENT AGENDA.

REQ TO ADVERTISE
WATER METERS

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT TO THE SHERMAN-DENISON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S (SD-MPO'S) METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) SUBCOMMITTEE

Mayor Wacker asked Karl Welzenbach, Director of the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization, to give an explanation of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Subcommittee.

MPO SUBCOMMITTEE
APPOINTMENT

Mr. Welzenbach explained that the MPO is required by Federal law, to update a long-range plan every five years, and they are currently in that process. The plan must be adopted in November 2014.

The plan lays out the transportation initiatives that can be funded through the Federal and State governments in this area, served by the MPO. It must be fiscally constrained and must be developed with public input.

One critical element of this public input is the implementation of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan

COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 17, 2014

Subcommittee. He asked the City Council to appoint an active member of the City to serve on the Subcommittee to help develop the plan. Four to eight meetings will be held to solicit input for the plan.

Mayor Wacker said she has asked former City Council Member Terrence Steele to serve on this Subcommittee. He is very engaged in the community on several levels and she felt he would represent Sherman well.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Watt to confirm the appointment of former City Council Member Terrence Steele to serve on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Subcommittee. Second by Deputy Mayor Softly.

VOTING AYE: Davis, Johnson, Plyler, Sofey, Softly, Watt.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013

Mary Lawrence, Controller, presented the Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2013, which is in compliance with applicable State laws for public funds and with the City's Investment Policy.

**QUARTERLY
INVESTMENT
REPORT**

The portfolio balance of \$14.3 million and yield of 0.37% at December 31, 2013 is about the same as the previous quarter. The City continues to see better yields from the State of Texas political subdivision obligations, but remain diversified among six different types of investments.

The weighted-average maturity is down from 374 days to about 303 days, as the only purchase maturity was a CD renewal. Book value approximated market value.

Mayor Wacker said Council Member Sofey and Council Member Watt serve on the committee.

ACTION TAKEN.

Motion by Council Member Johnson to approve the Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2013, as presented. Second by Council Member Watt.

VOTING AYE: Davis, Johnson, Plyler, Sofey, Softly, Watt.

VOTING NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

FINAL PLAT APPROVAL OF WASHINGTON BEND ADDITION, BEING 2.36 ACRES IN THE WILLIAM THOMPSON SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 1210; R.W. KLAS, OWNER; STEVE KLAS, REPRESENTATIVE; AND UNDERWOOD DRAFTING & SURVEYING, INC., SURVEYORS (2900 BLOCK OF WEST WASHINGTON STREET)

The City Council approved the Final Plat of the Washington Bend Addition, which is located in the 2900 block of West

**APPROVE FINAL PLAT
WASHINGTON BEND
ADDITION**

COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 17, 2014

Washington Street, between Creekbend Circle and Timber Creek Road. The owner would like to plat the property into four lots for residential development. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Final Plat, subject to the Staff Review Letter.

CONSENT AGENDA.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

There were no citizen's requests.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no media questions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

POLICE RECRUITING PRESENTATION

Council Member Sofey said he appreciated the report from Chief Henry concerning police recruiting changes and said Sherman is a great place to live and work. He commended the Police Department for going outside the area and into some new markets to recruit quality police officers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Wacker announced the following:

- The first Red River Mardi Gras and Jazz Festival will be held this weekend, centered around the downtown area and the Jazz Museum. The event is a family friendly Mardi Gras and is a great way to celebrate the music and the heritage of jazz.
- The Community Series will present the Sherman Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. in Kidd-Key Auditorium.
- A concert in Kidd-Key Auditorium on Friday, March 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. will feature Weston and Christy Hinson, with special guest Ronny Hinson of the original Hinsons.

ADJOURNMENT

On Motion duly made and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

MEDIA QUESTIONS

POLICE RECRUITING
PRESENTATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR

CITY CLERK