

Village Board of Aldermen
**Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen
Meeting Minutes**

Municipal Building, 301 N. Stagecoach Rd.
Thursday, February 19, 2009
6:00pm

Members present: Merle Stalcup, Curt Strong, Bob Pascoe, Stephen Peters, Carol Walls

Members Absent: Mike Cooper

Others Present: Dianna Zulauf – Village Secretary, Debbie Charbonneau – Tourism Director, Jack Hensley – Chief of Police, Alan Bojorquez - Village Attorney, citizens: 21

Mayor Stalcup called the meeting to order at 6:00, quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance were recited. Associate Pastor Brady Johnson gave the invocation.

Citizen Comments: Robert Denman, 1508 Old Mill Rd. - Spoke in favor of continuing to have a prayer at the beginning of each Board meeting.

Dick Darnell, 2200 Indian Trail - Spoke in favor of continuing to have a prayer at the beginning of each Board meeting.

Larry Sands, 2300 Indian Trail - Spoke in favor of continuing to have a prayer at the beginning of each Board meeting.

Alderman Strong made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes dated February 5th. Motion was seconded by Alderman Peters, motion carried unanimously.

Chief of Police Report: No Report.

Report from Tourism Chair: Director Charbonneau stated that she and eight other citizens went to the Capitol on Wednesday, Feb. 11th and spoke with Senator Fraser and Representative Sheffield against the 2% Hotel Occupancy Tax proposed to benefit the Bell County Expo Center. Salado lodging facility owners feel like Salado does not get enough business from the Expo Center to warrant them collecting extra taxes from their customers for the Center. Representative Sheffield will not take this proposition to the floor at the Capitol.

Unfinished Business:
None

New Business:

1. Year-to-Date Financials

Alderman Peters briefly went over the financials. December sales tax receipts were down from what was budgeted. Embarq franchise fee is down from what was budgeted for first quarter. Municipal Court fines are down. Interest income is down. Alderman Peters suggested the Board be cautious on spending.

Hotel Occupancy Tax receipts are down for the first quarter.

There were no objections to the financials other than Alderman Strong objecting to the reports being on an accrual basis instead of a cash basis.

2. Consideration of Changes to Subdivision Ordinance

This item was postponed pending further research.

3. TML Legislative Briefing Report

Alderman Strong gave a brief report on information he received while attending the TML Legislative Briefing. See attached.

4. TML Small Cities Conference

Alderman Strong gave a report on information he received while attending a TML Small Cities Conference. One point to note is the possible use of college students as volunteer government assistance.

Item #6 on the agenda was moved up so that the Board could go into Executive Session and not make the attending citizens wait longer to hear item #5.

6. Review & Possible Action on Rough Draft of Utilities Contract Legislation

Alderman Strong presented the latest draft of proposed addendum legislation he has been working on that would give towns the size of Salado an opportunity to do involuntary annexation. This legislation would allow cities who contract with utility companies to do involuntary annexation.

Motion was made by Alderman Strong to pursue this addendum legislation at the Capitol.

Motion was seconded by Alderman Pascoe, motion carried unanimously.

5. Board of Aldermen Meeting Procedures and Protocol

Alderman Pascoe reminded the Board that there is an ordinance on rules for Board of Aldermen meetings and stated 3 items he wished to be addressed. 1) Alderman Pascoe requests that the prayer be held prior to the meeting being called to order instead of after. Alderman Pascoe highlighted a recent email from the Village Attorney suggesting an option of holding the prayer prior to the meeting being called to order. Alderman Pascoe feels like the Board should have been consulted on implementing the pledge and a prayer at each meeting instead of the Mayor doing it on his own.

Motion was made by Alderman Strong to keep the agenda as is with both the pledges and the prayer in the meeting. Those individuals giving the prayer are to be from all religious organizations from within Bell County. Motion was seconded by Alderman Walls, motion carried with 2 ayes, 2 no's (Alderman Peters and Alderman Pascoe); Mayor Stalcup broke the tie by voting yes.

2) Alderman Pascoe suggested that since the Mayor acts as City Manager, the Mayor should give a Mayor's Report at each Board meeting.

Motion was made by Alderman Pascoe to add a standing agenda item on the agenda of Mayor's Report. Motion was seconded by Alderman Strong, motion carried unanimously. Alderman Pascoe requested that the Board go into Executive Session to confer with the Village Attorney on his 3rd item as authorized by LGC Sec. 551.071.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:15PM.

General discussion on the separation of powers between City Manager, Mayor, and Aldermen.

Reconvene into Regular Session at 8:00PM

Motion was made by Alderman Pascoe to modify the Board of Aldermen Rules for Board Meeting ordinance to 1) change the meeting time from 6:30 to 6:00; 2) include current standing orders, i.e. Tourism Director Report, Chief of Police Report, Pledges, etc.; 3) include Mayor's Report as a standing order. Motion was seconded by Alderman Strong, motion failed with 1 aye and 3 nos.

Motion was made by Alderman Peters to amend the Board of Alderman Rules for Board Meetings ordinance to read that Board meetings begin at 6:00PM instead of 6:30PM. Motion was seconded by Alderman Walls, motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Alderman Pascoe to have Mayor give a Mayor's report at every Board meeting. Motion was seconded by Alderman Peters, motion carried unanimously.

Announcements:

1. Next scheduled Board meeting is March 5, 2009 at 6:00PM.

Motion was made by Alderman Pascoe to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm. Motion was seconded by Alderman Peters, motion carried unanimously.

For copies of all handouts, please contact the Village office at 947-5060.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianna Zulauf
Village Secretary

Merle Stalcup
Mayor