

Village Board of Aldermen
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen
Meeting Minutes

Municipal Building, 301 N. Stagecoach Rd.
Thursday, July 17, 2008
6:30pm

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dianna Zulauf – Village Secretary, Alan Rogers – Chief of Police, Roger Gordon – Assistant Village Attorney, Eldon Miller – Village Treasurer, citizens: 15

Mayor Stalcup called the meeting to order at 6:30, quorum present.

Citizen Comments: Rick Ashe addressed the Board regarding the proposed vacation time change for city employees. Mr. Ashe is against changing the vacation time of new employees from 15 days a year to 10 days a year. Mr. Ashe stated that it not only runs down the moral of current employees, but it would also make it difficult for new employees to work side by side with existing employees knowing that they will not receive the same amount of time off but are working just as hard.

Raymond Carver requested the Board hang pictures of past aldermen in city hall. Mr. Carver also encouraged the Board to not adopt a property tax, but instead hold a referendum on the issue.

Larry Sands informed the Board that there are several properties in Salado who are experiencing difficulties with faulty septic systems and that Michael Jahns with the Bell County Health Department has stated that Salado is in need of a sewer system. Mr. Sands presented for record a letter from Terry Weaver regarding the proposed sewer system he intends to build for the Highlands of Salado project.

Alderman Walls made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes dated July 3rd. Motion was seconded by Alderman Strong, motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Walls made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 9th Budget Workshop. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cooper, motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Walls made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10th Budget Workshop. Motion was seconded by Alderman Strong, motion carried unanimously.

Chief of Police Report: Chief Rogers reported 160 calls during the month of June.

Report from Tourism Chair: Charlotte Douglass, president of the Tourism Council, gave the tourism report. The tourism department is hosting the first FAM Tour (Familiarization) in August.

The Chocolate & Art Festival is scheduled for the same weekend in October as Christmas in October. Sponsorships underwrite the festival.

Salado has joined with Belton and Temple to host the Texas Downtown Association annual conference in November. November 11th will showcase Salado.

Unfinished Business:

1. 2007 – 2008 Amended Budget Ordinance

This issue was postponed pending further verification of budget numbers.

New Business:

2. Request for Abandonment of Dry Creek Bed – Johnny Shipman

Johnny Shipman requested the Board abandon a .374 acre track of land off of Center Circle (property ID 232106) in order to clear his title. The Shipman's have been paying taxes on the property but the county still shows it as a portion of Spring Street, a road never used but platted many years ago.

Motion was made by Alderman Pascoe to grant Mr. Shipman's request and submit a letter to abandon that portion of Spring Street indicated by Mr. Shipman as presented. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cooper, motion carried unanimously.

3. Oncor Rate Case Proposal

Michael Cain, Waco area manager with Oncor informed the Board that a rate increase is being reviewed and requested the Board pass an ordinance denying the proposed change in rates or suspend their decision to approve or deny for 90 days. By denying the rate change Oncor can appeal to the PUC and have a better chance of having the same rate all over their district instead of different rates in different cities.

Motion was made by Alderman Strong to pass an ordinance denying the proposed rate change. Motion was seconded by Alderman Pascoe, motion carried unanimously.

4. Tourism Department Lease Agreement

Charlotte Douglass presented to the Board a lease agreement for a building to house the new visitor center on North Main Street. The visitor center would be leased by the tourism department and a portion of the building would be sub-leased to the Chamber of Commerce. The new lease starts August 1, 2008 with a rent of \$1,800.00/month for seven years. The Chamber would pay half to the Village. The lease has been agreed upon with the property owner and the Village Attorney.

Motion was made by Alderman Walls to accept the lease agreement as presented. Motion was seconded by Alderman Strong, motion carried unanimously.

5. Leadership Salado

Alderman Walls explained that Leadership Salado is a new program sponsored by the Village to be an education program for possible leaders in the village. There may be a minimum cost to the village for such things as mileage for speakers, refreshments at meetings, etc.

6. Year-to-Date Financials and Quarterly Reports

Treasurer Miller went over the year-to-date financials and quarterly reports. There was some discussion on differences between the financials and quarterly reports account balance which proved to be the interest money off of TexPool being recorded on the quarterly reports prior to being recorded on the financials. There were no other objections.

7. TML Legislative Update

Alderman Strong presented to the Board a list of items the legislature is looking at. This was information only.

8. Participation in Bell County's Emergency Operations Plan

Mayor Stalcup explained that when the Village created its own EOP we were automatically dropped off the county's EOP. Mayor Stalcup stated that a letter requesting to be a part of the county's EOP was all that is needed to be included again. Mayor Stalcup will draft such a letter.

9. Employee Handbook, Vacation Policy

Mayor Stalcup explained that at the present new full time employees are entitled to 15 days of vacation a year. Mayor Stalcup's proposal is to amend the policy so that full time employees hired after October 1, 2008 would be entitled to only 10 days of vacation. This is an attempt to save the village money.

Motion was made by Alderman Cooper to leave the current vacation policy as is and make no changes. Motion was seconded by Alderman Pascoe, motion carried unanimously.

10. Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions

Mayor Stalcup stated that the Advisory Committee has submitted a report recommending to the Board a 20% Homestead exemption, a \$50,000.00 exemption for citizens 65 years of age or older, and a \$50,000.00 exemption for disabled citizens. The committee also recommended a freeze/ceiling for 65 and older.

Motion was made by Alderman Peters to accept the committee's recommendations.

Motion was seconded by Alderman Walls, motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:15

1. Personnel Matter: Village Maintenance Worker Position
2. Municipal Court: Policy regarding Community Service Worker

Reconvene into Regular Session at 8:56

Motion was made by Alderman Pascoe to modify the policy for community service workers as discussed in executive session. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cooper, motion carried unanimously.

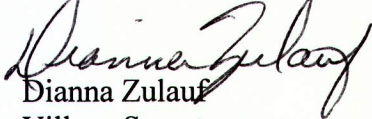
Announcements:


1. Next scheduled Board meeting is August 7, 2008 at 6:30PM.

Motion was made by Alderman Strong to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Motion was seconded by Alderman Walls, 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