

Village Board of Aldermen
Meeting Minutes

Municipal Building
Thursday, July 3, 2003
6:30pm

Members present: Rick Ashe, Jackie Mills, Charlotte Douglass, Vic Means, Michael Cooper, Suzi Epps

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dianna Zulauf – Village Secretary, Alan Bojorquez – Village Attorney, Alan Rogers – Chief of Police, Tim Fleischer – Village Voice newspaper, citizens: Eleven

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

New Business item no. 3. Review Information from USDA Rural Development
Alderman Mills introduced Jerry Moore with the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Moore explained to the Board how governments can apply for a loan or grant from the U.S. Depart. of Agriculture to purchase property. Mr. Moore handed out a couple of flyers with information and explained the eligibility requirements.

Alderman Epps made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes dated June 19th. Motion was seconded by Alderman Means, motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions and/or Proclamations:

Mayor Douglass presented Ordinance No. 2003.08, Municipal Boundaries. This ordinance calls for a survey of the Village limits which CTCOG has done, and refers to the map and field notes obtained by Bell County.

Motion was made by Alderman Means to adopt Ordinance No. 2003.08, Municipal Boundaries. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cooper, motion carried unanimously.

Chief of Police Report:

Chief Rogers had nothing to report. Mayor Douglass asked about the progress of acquiring sirens. He is still waiting on a quote from a vendor.

Tourism Director Report:

April Allen was not present, but asked Alderman Epps to report that 26 visitor packets were mailed out in June and had 89 registered visitors. 4,242 packets were mailed out in response to advertisements.

The council has met and discussed the grant process which has begun. Two workshops will be held by Ms. Allen, one on July 16th and one on July 21st. Deadline for applications is August 11th. Each Alderman received a copy of revised Rules and Regulations for the Tourism Council. This document will be put on the next agenda for possible adoption.

Unfinished Business:

1. Report on Zoning Steering Committee Meeting, Approval of Public Hearing Minutes, and Report on TML Zoning Training

Alderman Means reported that the committee is now in the process of looking over the comments received from the Public Hearing on zoning.

Alderman Means and Alderman Cooper attended a Planning & Zoning conference last week.

Alderman Means made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17th public hearing on the proposed zoning ordinance as presented to the Board. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cooper, motion carried unanimously.

2. Review and Possible Adoption of Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance

Attorney Alan Bojorquez explained the purpose and need of a S.O.B. ordinance. This ordinance was presented at the June 17th public hearing. This ordinance will go together with the zoning ordinance once it is adopted.

Motion was made by Alderman Means to adopt Ordinance No. 2003.09, Sexually Oriented Business, as presented. Motion was seconded by Alderman Ashe, motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and Possible Adoption of Solicitation Ordinance

Mayor Douglass explained that the development of this ordinance came about due to citizens complaints on solicitors coming through town. Attorney Alan Bojorquez presented Draft C and explained the changes made since the draft B was presented. There is a vegetable vendor that sets up on Main Street during harvest time and sells his vegetables that the Board does not want to put out of business or place a hardship on. Attorney Bojorquez suggested that an exemption be added that would exempt people who sell produce that they have raised within a certain geographic distance from Salado. Discussion was made on whether the ordinance must contain the bonding requirement. It is not required and Board members felt it not necessary at this time.

Attorney Bojorquez will create a Draft D, striking the bonding requirement and adding the vegetable vendor exemption. Draft D will be presented at the next Board meeting.

4. Finalizing of 2003-2004 Goals and Objectives

Mayor Douglass explained that the Goals and Objectives created at the goals workshop will be the basis for budgeting. Items can be added to the list as needed.

New Business:

1. Review of May Financials

Mayor Douglass reported that on the Hotel/Motel account the income is \$2,290.00 over budget. The expenses are \$30,000.00 under budget. On the Village General account the income is \$38,000.00 under budget due to TXU franchise fee way down and the expenses are \$47,000.00 under budget.

Alderman Means commented to those present that the Village is in good financial condition.

2. Review of Proposed Noise Ordinance

Mayor Douglass stated that the reason for drafting a noise ordinance was in response to citizen's complaints on loud noises in town. Chief Rogers demonstrated how loud a noise must be to be eighty-five decibels by turning on his car radio as loud as it will go and measuring the decibels with a decibel reader.

It was explained that measuring the decibels was done from the property line and that without this ordinance the police department has no justification for ordering citizens creating excessive noise to stop. It also allows the police department to determine what is truly excessive noise and what is simply a civil issue between citizens.

Attorney Alan Bojorquez explained that the ordinance needed to list items that could be in violation as opposed to simply stating anything above eighty-five decibels because the Local Government Code states that cities shall regulate and *define* by ordinance what is a nuisance. Mayor Douglass stated that the Village before this night had passed a total of fifty-seven ordinance of which eighteen are non-regulating, seventeen are regulating, five are setting franchise fees, five are calling for or canceling elections, and thirteen are extending or amending existing ordinances.

3. Moved to the top of the agenda as a courtesy.

4. Request by Essengee's for Sign Variance

Skip Blancett asked the Board for a variance to the sign ordinance to allow him to place a free-standing sign six feet from the lattice on the deck at the back of his property on Pace Park Rd. Mr. Blancett used the reasoning that his building faces two streets, Pace Park Rd. and Main Street. Concerns were voiced as to allowing the sign to be placed that far away from the deck, setting a precedence and eventually having signs along Salado Creek.

Motion was made by Alderman Epps to allow Mr. Blancett to put up his free-standing sign one to two feet away from the lattice on his deck. Mr. Blancett is to resubmit a sign application to this effect. Motion was seconded by Alderman Means, motion carried unanimously.

5. Review and Possible Adoption of Purchasing Policy and Policy on Handling E-mails

Mayor Douglass read to the Board a purchasing policy drafted outlining the steps to be taken to purchase items with city money. The policy states purchases below \$500.00 need not have a purchase order but approval from department head; purchases above \$500.00 need to have a purchase order and if not budgeted, quotes must be taken from at least three vendors.

Mayor Douglass also read to the Board a policy outlining the handling of incoming and outgoing e-mails and usage of internet on city computers.

Motion was made by Alderman Ashe to adopt the Purchasing Policy and the Handling of Internet and E-mail usage as submitted. Motion was seconded by Alderman Means, motion carried unanimously.

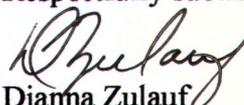
For copies of all handouts, please contact the Village office at 947-5060.

Announcements:

1. Next scheduled Board meeting is July 17, 2003.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

Respectfully submitted,


Dianna Zulauf
Village Secretary


Charlotte Douglass
Mayor

