

Village Board of Aldermen  
**Special Called Board of Aldermen**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Municipal Building  
Thursday, May 31, 2007  
6:00pm

Members present: Michael Cooper, Rick Ashe, Merle Stalcup, Curt Strong, Suzi Epps, Forrest Holloway

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dianna Zulauf – Village Secretary, Alan Rogers – Chief of Police, Alan Bojorquez – Village Attorney (6:26), John Simcik – Village Engineer, citizens: 21

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

Mayor Ashe stated that “Citizen Comment” portion of the agenda will be moved to the end of the meeting in hopes that most citizen questions would be answered during the presentation.

**New Business:**

1. IH35 Widening/Expansion

Mayor Protem Cooper gave an overview of what he and his IH35 expansion committee have been doing to respond to TxDOT’s plan of widening IH35 through Salado. The committee consists of Mike Cooper, Merle Stalcup, Charlotte Douglass, Vic Means, Jack Wheeler, John Anderson, and John Simcik. The Board of Aldermen have monitored TxDOT’s plan for the past three years during which time the Board has expressed their wishes and concerns. Concerns include loss of sales tax revenue due to businesses along 35 being taken by TxDOT and the overall effect of the start of the project on Salado businesses; traffic being diverted onto Main Street (TxDOT’s policy will not allow them to do that, no intentional diversions.); TxDOT being aware of historical value of town. Wishes include putting an exit ramp in the downtown area. Currently TxDOT’s plan allows an exit ramp south of town and north of town. TxDOT states that law requires them to build elongated exit and entrance ramps and there is not enough room to do this in the downtown area. The intersection at the service road and Holland Road needs to be reconsidered. Currently it does not allow easy access to Main Street.

Protem Cooper stated that his committee has informed TxDOT that it is the Village’s wish for TxDOT to take property from the west side of IH35 instead of the east side. This will lessen the economic impact this project will have on the Village. TxDOT states that it cannot take property from the west side due to the Robertson Plantation being designated as a state historical site.

May 3, 2007 was the first time the Board or the committee has seen TxDOT’s current widening plan and it was not what the committee had been talking to TxDOT about in the past.

Village Engineer, John Simcik, has drafted an alternative IH35 widening plan and presented it to the Board. The Board of Aldermen is scheduled to meet with TxDOT on June 6, 2007 to discuss alternative plans.

Texas Historical Commission has passed a resolution urging all to minimize the taking of historical property on both sides of IH35.

Protem Cooper and his committee have contacted Senator Fraser, Representative Delisi, and Representative Carter's office about this issue. Commissioner Tim Brown has also been made aware.

**Citizen Comments:**

Charlotte Douglass expressed a desire to have two exits of the highway in the downtown area and adequate signage.

Doris Denman made the Board aware of the historical value of the Baptist Church property and requested as little acquisition as possible of that property.

Jack Herrington suggested the Salado Historical Society get involved.

Cathy Sands questioned why there were four exits from the Jarrell area north to Salado.

Larry Sands thanked the Board and committee for the work on this and letting the public know what's going on and offered his support in any way.

Sheryl Russell stated she felt the committee needs to be more aggressive on acquiring downtown exits. Accessibility is vital.

Ron Harrison commended the committee on their diligence and hard work. State that the type of road surface would make a difference in noise control and requested the committee find out what would be put down.

**Adjourned Regular Session at 7:21 to go into Executive Session**

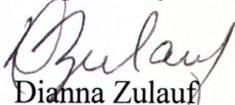
Confer with Village Attorney.

**Reconvene into Regular Session at 8:16**

*Motion was made by Alderman Cooper to pass a resolution opposing TxDOT's current plan as presented on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and request TxDOT to reconsider exit placement and minimize eminent domain. Motion was seconded by Alderman Stalcup, motion carried unanimously.*

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dianna Zulauf  
Village Secretary

  
Rick Ashe  
Mayor

