

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

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

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

Members Absent: Forrest Holloway

Others Present: Dianna Zulauf – Village Secretary, Alan Rogers – Chief of Police, Veronica Rivera – Assistance Village Attorney, Debbie Charbonneau – Tourism Director, Eldon Miller – Village Treasurer, Bruno Matarazzo – Code Officer, John Simcik – Village Engineer, citizens: 16

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

Citizen Comments: Tom Lane, 2113 Highland Dr., asked the Board what process the aldermen had or are using for adopting a property tax and the amount. Mr. Lane asked if a publication from the aldermen had gone out explaining the upcoming tax, will there be any exemptions and if any decisions have been made on what the money will be spent on. Mr. Lane stated he feels the money should be spent on potholes.

James Kilpatrick, Chisholm Trail, requested the Board consider painting a yellow stripe down the middle of Old Mill Road all the way to Chisholm Trail.

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

Alderman Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10th Strategic Plan workshop. Motion was seconded by Alderman Strong, motion carried unanimously.

Chief of Police Report: Chief Rogers reported that there were a total of 144 calls during the month of March. Chief Rogers explained that several of those calls are to assist county officers outside the Salado city limits. Salado officers are required to assist other officers if requested. Alderman Stalcup asked the Chief to do a year-to-year comparison on calls.

Report from Tourism Chair: No Report.

Alderman Forrest Holloway has submitted to the Board his letter of resignation from the Board of Alderman. Alderman Holloway is taking a job and relocating to San Antonio.

Alderman Strong made a motion to accept Alderman Holloway's resignation. Motion was seconded by Alderman Epps, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashe explained that applications will be taken through April 28th from residents interested in filling Alderman Holloway's unexpired term, one year. The Board will appoint a replacement at the May 1st Board meeting.

Unfinished Business:

1. Possible Adoption of a Rabies Control Authority Ordinance

Chief Rogers explained that our current Rabies Control Act ordinance does not appoint a Rabies Control Authority. Chief Rogers requested that the Belton Animal Clinic, Dr. Dunn, be appointed as the Village's Rabies Control Authority. Assistant Attorney Rivera will draft an amendment ordinance to the current Rabies Control Act ordinance making the appointment.

Alderman Cooper made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 2002.16 to include a Rabies Control Authority appointment. Motion was seconded by Alderman Epps, motion carried unanimously.

2. Letter of Support for Highlands of Salado Development

Village Engineer John Simcik has made a second review of the proposed wastewater treatment facility application for Highlands of Salado, a development just outside the Village limits. The developer has satisfied Mr. Simcik's concerns regarding effluent runoff in Smith Branch Creek. The developer will include a berm in their design of a sewer system. Mr. Simcik therefore supports the developers request for a letter of support from the Village on their proposed wastewater treatment facility.

Alderman Strong made a motion to authorize Assistant Village Attorney Rivera to draft a Letter of Support as requested. Motion was seconded by Alderman Stalcup, motion carried unanimously.

3. Possible Adoption of a Health & Sanitation Ordinance Amendment

Code Officer Bruno Matarazzo explained the revisions he would like to see in the Village's current Health & Sanitation ordinance. Assistant Attorney Rivera will draft an amendment ordinance and incorporate changes. This issue was postponed and will be brought back at a later date.

4. Possible Formation of a Community Advisory Committee

Alderman Stalcup requested that an advisory committee be formed with citizens to research and advise on an ad valorem tax rate and possible exemptions; to review current financials for unnecessary expenditures, and to draft a report to the Board of Aldermen on their findings and recommendations. Assistant Attorney Rivera stated that a resolution forming this committee will need to be in writing and worded carefully. Treasurer Miller stated that this committee should not be participants in the budgeting process but should step in after Draft A is completed. A workshop will be scheduled to determine size, scope, and individuals for this proposed committee.

New Business:

5. Possible Relocation of Salado's Tourism Department

Co-chair of the Tourism Council, Charlotte Douglass, explained that the tourism office is having a problem with storage space at their current location, the Civic Center, and a problem with too much foot traffic and interruptions for other business that it's hard to get any tourism business done. The tourism office and the Chamber of Commerce want to stay located together. The tourism council has a place in mind to move to. The Board will go into executive session at the end of the meeting to confer with the attorney regarding real property.

6. Tourism Council Alternate Member

Director Charbonneau stated that out of the three citizens that applied the tourism council voted to recommend appointing Charlie Turnbo as an alternate tourism council member. *Alderman Strong made a motion to accept the tourism council recommendation and appoint Charlie Turnbo as an alternate member to the tourism council. Motion was seconded by Alderman Epps, motion carried unanimously.*

7. Year-to-Date Financials and Quarterly Reports

Treasurer Miller went over the financials and the quarterly reports. There were no objections.

8. Consideration of Paying Off the Municipal Building Mortgage

Treasurer Miller presented a 6-month cash flow report showing a projected cash balance at the end of September of \$243,151.00. The current balance on the mortgage note is \$62,000.00 and is to balloon in May. Paying off the note would still leave about five months of reserve, \$150,000.00.

Alderman Strong made a motion to pay off the current mortgage note on the municipal building. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cooper, motion carried unanimously.

9. Annex P, U, R, & Q of the Emergency Operations Plan

There were no recommended changes to Annex P, Hazard Mitigation.

Two changes to Annex U, Legal – Pg U-7, VIII,B1&2, change “City Attorney” to “Mayor or Mayor Protem”; and Pg U-7, VII, B(2nd sentence), change “City Attorney” to “Mayor or Mayor Protem”.

One change to Annex R, Search & Rescue – Pg R-3,D(3), add to end of last sentence “after first contacting the Bell County Emergency Mgmt Coordinator”.

Four changes to Annex Q, Hazardous Materials – Pg Q-5,A(10) and Pg Q-6,B(10), change “Bell County Local Emergency Planning Committee” to “Bell County Emergency Mgmt Coordinator”. Pg Q-14,10(c), change “TNRCC” to “TCEQ”. Pg Q-3-1, 4a(1), change “Pressure-demand” to “Positive Pressure”.

Alderman Stalcup made a motion to adopt Annexes P, U, R, & Q with the above stated changes. Motion was seconded by Alderman Cooper, motion carried unanimously.

10. Review of New TxDOT Rules on Digital Billboards

Assistant Attorney Rivera explained that June 1st TxDOT will be adopting new rules regarding Digital Billboards. Currently the Village’s sign ordinance does not allow these kinds of billboards. The Board agreed to amend the sign ordinance to include prohibition of these types of signs. Attorney Rivera will draft an ordinance amending the sign ordinance and bring this back to the Board at a later date.

11. Zoning Board of Adjustment Recommendation on Variance Request at 909 Santa Maria

The ZBA has reviewed a variance request from the property owner at 909 Santa Maria to allow him to erect a storage building in his front yard instead of his backyard as required by the Village’s Zoning Ordinance. The Village Engineer has reviewed the request for drainage purposes and has no objections to the request. The county Health Department has reviewed the site for septic tank issues and has no objections. The ZBA recommends approval of the request.

Alderman Cooper made a motion to accept the ZBA’s recommendation and approve the variance request as submitted. Motion was seconded by Alderman Stalcup, motion carried unanimously.

12. Planning & Zoning Commission Recommendation on Haddon-Royal Oaks Replat

The P&Z Commission has reviewed a minor replat, Haddon-Royal Oaks, and recommend approval of the replat. This property is located in Salado's ETJ and has been reviewed by Bell County.

Alderman Stalcup made a motion to accept the P&Z's recommendation and approve Haddon-Royal Oaks subdivision as submitted. Motion was seconded by Alderman Strong, motion carried unanimously.

13. Road Training Proposal from Fugro Enterprises

Alderman Cooper explained that Fugro Enterprises and our Village Engineer have offered to train Village employees and Aldermen on how to determine when a road is in need of repair and provide manuals and set out a road repair plan/timeline for a cost of \$6,000.00. The Village Engineer would draft a repair plan and monitor the plan for a cost of approximately \$10,000.00. Alderman Cooper recommends this training take place immediately. There is Professional Fee money in the budget that can be used. Alderman Stalcup recommended the Board talk with TxDOT and see what assistance they could provide before spending the money.

14. Smith Branch Flood Mitigation Report

Forrest Holloway has been working on a flood mitigation grant to have Winners Circle bridge replaced. Upon his resignation Secretary Zulauf is taking over the project. Application and paper work have been completed and submitted, just waiting now on a response from the state.

15. Regulation of Keeping Farm Animals within the Village Limits

Alderman Cooper stated that currently the Village does not have any regulations prohibiting citizens keeping farm animals inside the Village limits and recommends an ordinance be drafted to this effect. This issue was postponed pending a draft ordinance by Assistant Attorney Rivera.

Announcements:

1. Next scheduled Board meeting is May 1, 2008 at 6:30PM.
2. Election Day is May 10th at the Civic Center.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:17PM.

1. Discussion of possible location to move the Tourism Office and create a true Visitors Center. Reconvene into Regular Session at 8:32PM.

Alderman Cooper made a motion to authorize staff to negotiate a lease in accordance with what was discussed in executive session. Motion was seconded by Alderman Stalcup, motion carried with 3 ayes and 1 abstention, Alderman Epps.

Motion was made by Alderman Epps to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. 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

