Village of Salado, TX
Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen
Meeting Minutes
Municipal Building, 301 N. Stagecoach Rd.
Thursday, March 5, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Skip Blancett, Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brown, Alderman Frank Coachman, Alderman Amber Preston Dankert, Alderman Hans Fields, Alderman Michael McDougal

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Kim Foutz - Village Administrator, Douglas Hansen – Village Secretary, Jack Hensley - Chief of Police, Debbie Charbonneau – Executive Director

I. Call To Order : Mayor Blancett called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., quorum present.

1. Rev. Bob Bliss, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, led the invocation.
2. Cub Scout Troop 1115 led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

The Mayor greeted guests: the Cub Scout pack and Bell County Judge Burrows, and introduced the new Salado High School Student representative on the dais, Morgan Bird.

II. Reports:

Mayor's Report: The Mayor read the following updates:

Agenda: Note that the order of items on the Agenda has changed. Tonight we will have the Workshop Session before the Executive Session. Our intent is to streamline the meeting both for the Board and the public; this way, we will avoid having to clear the building in between the Regular Agenda and the Workshop. We will also not be asking citizens who wish to attend the Workshop to wait outside during the Executive Session. This makes it easier for citizens to observe the Workshop. The Agenda with this new order was posted both here the Municipal Building and on our website in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Elections: the deadline for applying for a place on the ballot was last Friday. We will have four candidates on the ballot for three Aldermen positions. They will appear on the ballot in this order for the May 9th election:

David T. Williams
Fred Brown
Hans Fields
Michael McDougal

The Mayor said that he spoke with Andy Petter at TXDOT – TXDOT will work with law enforcement to avoid routing I-35 traffic onto Main Street when there are I-35 accidents.

Aldermen Updates:

Environmental Report/ETJ Alderman Dankert said that she would defer most of her report until the discussion of later Agenda items. She noted that vulture population control measures with noisemakers had begun and would be going on for a week or ten days. Alderman McDougal noted that the ETJ/Annexation Committee met and is working on goals and methods to point out the assets of Salado to developers and citizens.

Ordinance Committee Report Alderman Coachman said that the Ordinance Committee does not have a report on current actions but that the next two Ordinances being reviews are the Subdivision Ordinance and the Landscaping Ordinance.

Main Street Report Mayor Pro Tem Brown said that the Texas A&M design team will come to Salado during the lunchtime timeframe on Friday Mar 27th. They will be soliciting public input

Street Improvement Committee No report.

The Mayor thanked the Aldermen for their reports.

III. Proclamations: none

IV. Public Comments:

3. Two individuals made public comments, summarized below.

John Jennings proposed the addition of Dog Park in Salado. He stated that many people make travel decisions based on dog accessibility. He said that it would be easy to do with donations and that he would be happy to be part of committee to form a plan that could be presented to the Board.

V. Consent Agenda

4. *Consider approving the Consent Agenda items:*

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Alderman McDougal made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, Alderman Coachman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Regular Agenda:

Resolutions –

5. *Presentation, discussion and possible action on Resolution R-2015-112, supporting the collection of a Bell County Hotel Occupancy Tax for the benefit and support of the Bell County Exposition Center.*

Village Administrator Foutz noted that this Agenda items was discussed in Workshop two weeks ago, during which there was a question and answer session.

The Mayor invited three citizens that signed up to speak to this Agenda item to the podium.

a. Linda Johnson, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Express, spoke in support of the resolution, noting that the whole city would benefit from an improved Bell County Expo Center.

b. Debbie Harrrison, 231 College Hill Drive, spoke against the resolution. She said that she has owned a Bed and Breakfast in Salado for 13 years, and that in that time she has had only two occupancies related to the Expo Center. She said that people visiting the Expo Center might come to Salado to shop, but would not be staying in Salado, and that the tax would be paid by lodging establishments, not shops.

c. Johnny Bratten, 301 Thomas Arnold, spoke in support of the resolution. He said that he respects the Bed and Breakfast industry, but that his business benefits from the Expo Center. He said that the Expo Center was not designed to be self-sufficient, but was there to benefit the economy of the whole County. He said that the Expo event held during the last weekend saw his sales up twenty percent.

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brown made a motion to approve Resolution R-2015-112, supporting the collection of a Bell County Hotel Occupancy Tax for the benefit and support of the Bell County Exposition Center with the understanding that the pro rata share of the 17% return to the Village would be used totally to advertise the boutique lodging experience in Salado, and that the Expo Center create a category on their home page that advertises the boutique lodging experience in Salado, under which the Salado Bed and Breakfast will be listed. Alderman Dankert seconded.

The Mayor called for discussion. Alderman Fields said that he has read the documents related to this tax and has listed to the presentations by Bell County Commissioner Tim Brown and Bell County Judge Jon Burrows. He said that he does not see that the Bell County Expo Center visitors come to Salado. He said that restaurants may see an increase in business, but that is only four or five Salado business. He said that he does not know whether the Salado Chamber of Commerce supports it.

Alderman McDougal pointed to interlocal road improvements as an example of benefits that come to Salado from the County. Alderman Fields questioned what relationship road work has to the Expo Center.

Alderman Dankert asked if either Jon Burrows or Tim Brown would speak about the appropriateness of the language. Tim Brown said that he did want to clarify that the revenue sharing is on a pro rata basis; he said that he was amenable to the additional language on the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown noted that approval of the tax still has to go the Texas Legislature as a bill for approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown reread the motion and the motion passed 4-1 with Alderman Fields voting against.

Public Hearings / Ordinances: none

Miscellaneous –

6. *Receive a presentation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Salado Springs Salamander and alternatives for Stagecoach Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent.*

Chris Harper, US Fish and Wildlife service gave a presentation that addressed the history of the status of the Salado Springs Salamander, details about the Endangered Species Act, the defined critical habitat of the Salamander, and Conservation/Restoration Strategies.

The Mayor invited two citizens that signed up to speak to this Agenda item to the podium.

Will Lowry, 602 Center Circle brought up concerns about tourism and culture. He said that he was considered about the potential for harm to the business and culture of Salado if any future actions would restrict the access of people to the Creek. He said that the Barton Springs have a salamander that is faring worse than the Salado Salamander, but there is no problem with

Amy McLane, 628 Center Circle, noted that the Barton Springs Salamander is endangered, whereas the Salado Salamander is just threatened, yet Texas Parks and Wildlife says that swimming in Barton Springs is not a problem. She asked whether Salado's budget covers another police officer to watch the Creek and write tickets. She also noted that diverting people onto private property would create trash and liability issues.

Mayor Blancett noted that this Agenda item was not for action and that the discussion would continue in Workshop.

7. *Presentation, discussion, and possible action on a Supervisory Board recommendation to adopt a Multiyear Action Plan for the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau*

Alderman McDougal noted that this was put together by Debbie Charbonneau and the Chamber of Commerce and that it is a working document. Village Administrator Kim Foutz gave a short presentation highlighting the plan as presented in the Agenda packet.

Alderman McDougal made a motion to accept the Supervisory Board recommendation to adopt a Multiyear Action Plan for the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, Alderman Coachman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. *Presentation, discussion and possible action on award of low bid for street improvements to APAC-Texas, Inc. DBA Wheeler from Belton, Texas for the 2015 Street Rehabilitation Program.*

Alderman McDougal summarized the bid information as presented in the Agenda packet. Village Administrator Foutz noted that the bid would be awarded in whole, and that the Board would then submit a change order for the changes that they vote on. Alderman McDougal noted that with this bid, work can begin in mid-April, and conclude in mid-June.

Alderman Fields made a motion to award the bid for street improvements to APAC-Texas, Inc. DBA Wheeler from Belton, Texas for the 2015 Street Rehabilitation Program, as presented, Alderman Dankert seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Blancett closed the Regular Session at 8:35 p.m. and opened a Workshop Session.

VII. Workshop Session:

9. *Discuss environmental concerns of three areas inside and outside the Salado Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)*

Jim Boynton made a presentation and showed printed pictures showing alleged illegal sewage handling in areas outside Salado that could affect Salado. This included areas that appear to have multiple residences hooked up to inadequate septic systems. Michael Jahns, Bell County Health Department, said that there is a mix of grandfathered properties and communities not in cities that do not self-regulate. He said that residences not complying with the law get a letter from the County, but it is difficult to prove what happened or who did it unless there is obvious sewage above ground. Tim Brown said that most of these cases are illegal subdivisions, and that because Texas is a Property Rights State, the County has narrow authority to prevent or correct this type of problem. The Board discussed the possibility of educational initiatives to persuade County residents to comply with sewage regulations.

10. *Discuss the US Fish and Wildlife presentation regarding the Salado Springs Salamander and the Stagecoach Plant*

Tim Brown noted that what ordinance the Village passes is the Village's decision, and that an ordinance need not be more restrictive than necessary. Kim Foutz brought up the Stagecoach plant that is permitted to discharge into the creek but does not currently discharge there, and asked about jurisdiction and processes to determine what is allowable. Chris Harper said the key factors to examine are what exactly the permit says and conducting testing. Alderman Dankert noted that the spring near the Stagecoach plant is alluvial and therefore pushes water out and brought up the possibility of discharging into the pond first. Kim Foutz said that she had already started consulting with TCEQ and would be contacting Clearwater as well. Mayor Blancett called the board's attention to the fact the Village had to take action by June.

11. *Discuss a proposed Outdoor Events Ordinance.*
12. *Discuss amending the Parks Ordinance to allow alcohol with special events.*

Doug Hansen noted that these two items were follow-ups from a previous Workshop. He gave handouts summarizing answers to questions posed at the previous Workshop. He said that he would defer the presentation in the interest of time if the Aldermen wished.

13. *Discuss Salado construction issues – Interstate 35 construction and Main Street Improvements*

The Mayor said that he has another meeting with TXDOT at the end of March, pushing to try to get I-35 construction done by the end of December and asking for compensation for the construction delays, possibly in the form of gutter and curb work. Alderman Fields noted that he asked Andy Petter for a copy of the bridge inspection report, and the report shows that the Main Street Bridge is rated as a 72.6 out of 100.

The Mayor directed that the building be cleared and the Executive Session open at 9:43 p.m.

VIII. Executive Session:

The Board addressed two Agenda items in Executive Session.

14. *Discuss the Sanctuary project as authorized by Texas Government Code 551.087, Economic Development.*
15. *Discuss the Robertson Tract project as authorized by Texas Government Code 551.087, Economic Development.*

IX. Regular Session

The Mayor re-opened the Regular Meeting at 10:53 p.m.

Announcements:

Next Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting will be at the Municipal Building on Thursday, March 19th, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

The Mayor asked the Board to meet in Workshop and Executive Session on Monday, Mar 9 at 6:00 p.m. and again on Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m. if there was still business to discuss after the Mar 9 meeting was concluded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
SKIP BLANCETT, Mayor of the Village of Salado, Texas

ATTEST: _____
DOUGLAS A. HANSEN, Village Secretary