

The La Vernia City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on November 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall, La Vernia, and Texas.

**Item No. 1. Call to Order** Mayor Robert Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Marie Gerlich, Harold Schott, and Eloi Cormier. Jennifer Moczygemba was absent. Staff members present were City Secretary-Treasurer Angela Cantu and City Administrator Yvonne Griffin.

**Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation** The Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge were recited. Mayor Gregory gave the invocation.

**Item No. 3. Citizens to be heard** The following citizens came to speak to the City Council:

- 1) Patrice Broderick invited the Council to attend a seminar on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 pm at Witte's regarding human trafficking.

**Item No. 4. Consent Agenda** Councilwoman Gerlich made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Councilman Cormier seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 5.A. Resolution** City Administrator Griffin explained the Resolution Authorizing Participation in the TexPool Investment Pools and Designating Authorized Representatives stating that an investment pool is better than a CD right now given the rates. One of the benefits is that if necessary, you can withdraw money quickly without penalty. Councilwoman Gerlich asked if this pool is limited to government entities and City Administrator Griffin stated that it is. Mayor Gregory stated that this is one of the forms of investments that is discussed at the Public Finance Investment Act training. City Administrator Griffin stated she has worked with them before and feels that this is one of the best forms of investments. Councilman Cormier made a motion to approve the Resolution and Councilwoman Gerlich seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 6.A. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory stated that he met with Jeff Dunsworth with the Texas Water Development Board and went over everything from start to finish. J&K is almost done with their portion of the project. FELPS should be getting the power hooked up by next week. The water storage tank that was relocated has some deterioration from paint and needs to be repainted within the next 12 to 18 months. The recommendation is to have this done now and we have already received some bids. The highest was around \$26,000 and Mr. Littlefield recommended going with the middle bid of \$24,677. Regarding the SCADA system, a three bid process is not necessary. We are looking to go with a company from Seguin, the same one that Canyon Regional Water Authority and East Central uses. The contractor would like to get moving on it as soon as possible. The estimated cost of this project is anywhere from \$63,000 to \$75,000. When we receive a final price we will bring it back to Council. Mayor Gregory asked for a motion to move forward. The well can work without SCADA but that was not the intention. Councilman Schott made a motion to accept Change Order #2 (to paint the storage tank) and Councilman Cormier seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.** Councilman Schott made a motion to move forward with the SCADA system and Councilwoman Gerlich seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 6.B. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory explained that with the Council being the Municipal Development District (MDD) Board of Directors an ordinance needs to be approved to structure the board. The first draft was a seven member board however, Mayor Gregory would

recommend five member board. He would like to see the council members serve on the board but if someone does not want to, then he will step in and serve. Councilman Cormier asked how the meetings are going to be structured. Mayor Gregory stated that he would like to have the MDD meetings prior to the Council meetings but the Board will determine the times. Councilman Cormier made a motion to approve an ordinance to restructure the La Vernia Municipal Development District Board to a five member board consisting of the City Council and Councilman Schott seconded. Mayor Gregory stated that if we transfer to a volunteer board the ordinance will need to be re-done. The way the ordinance is written if a Councilmember does not want to serve then the Mayor will step into the seat. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 6.C. Discussion/Action** City Administrator Griffin would like to have M&S Engineering to put a street maintenance plan together so during budget time it will be easier to decide which projects need can be completed each year. Councilman Schott asked if this would incorporate the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and City Administrator Griffin stated that this is a minor maintenance plan and the CIP is for major projects. Mayor Gregory stated that this will help plan out money so we can see which streets will be tackled first. Councilman Schott made a motion to authorize M&S Engineering to develop a five year street maintenance plan and Councilwoman Gerlich seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 6.D. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory stated that he is not at the point to recommend replacement to fill the Municipal Judge vacancy. He has asked Councilman Schott to help with this recommendation. No action was taken on this item.

**Item No. 6.E. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory explained the “Mayor for the Day” program. Junior High students will be asked to submit an essay addressing at least three ideas he/she would implement to make La Vernia an even better place to live, work, and play. City Administrator Griffin stated that she has spoken with Ms. Buckley, the Head of the History Department at the Junior High School, and she is very excited about this program. Councilman Cormier made a motion to approve the “Mayor for the Day” program and Councilwoman Gerlich seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 6.F. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory stated that he does not have a nomination at this time. No action was taken.

**Item No. 6G. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory stated that he would like to recommend Councilwoman Gerlich to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Gerlich accepted. Councilman Schott made a motion to approve Councilwoman Gerlich as Mayor Pro Tem and Councilman Cormier seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 6.H. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory stated that the company that did the streets for us the last time, Cummings Paving, is no longer around but one of the owners works for another company and he has already spoke with him for a bid. He stated that this is going to be a fast bid process. Councilwoman Gerlich asked if the families on Forest will be included and Mayor Gregory stated that it would be. Councilman Schott stated that this is not usually the time of year that street repairs are made and Mayor Gregory stated that they do it a bit differently. Terri Leonard, a resident of one of the streets that had been repaired with

Cummings, stated that it is a painful process but it is worth it in the end. Mayor Gregory stated that with them doing CR 342 there are not many houses so there will be minimal home owner interaction.

**Item No. 6.I. Discussion/Action** City Administrator Griffin stated that she has tried working with the accounting software we have but does not have confidence in the program. She is recommending a new software that is good for small cities. The software will cost \$11,000 this year and \$17,000 next fiscal year. Councilwoman Gerlich asked about training and City Administrator Griffin stated the price includes training except for the travel for them to come out and train us. Councilwoman Gerlich asked if we have the funds available and City Administrator Griffin stated that we are going to have to go to the fund balance and do a budget amendment. If we can get the approval now the budget amendment will be on next month's meeting and we can go online in January. Councilwoman Gerlich asked if there is a penalty for backing out of our current contract and City Administrator Griffin stated that there is not a current contract. Councilwoman Gerlich made a motion to approve going with a new accounting software and Councilman Cormier seconded. **Motion carried 3 – 0.**

**Item No. 6.J. Discussion/Action** Mayor Gregory stated that he would like to have a broad discussion regarding multi-family developments. He stated that there is not one specific company that has come but since we get approached every year he feels that we need to discuss if this is a direction council would like to go. He stated that when the Council was presented with the proposal from last year he felt it was done very poorly and left everyone with lots of questions. There are many types of developments to choose from to come to our community. One example is where the developer gets tax credits to help build the property and has to maintain that property for a set amount of time. Councilman Schott asked if they do background checks on all of the adult residents or just the person whose name is on the lease and City Administrator Griffin stated anyone over the age of 18. City Administrator Griffin stated that NPR goes into such great detail and their properties have a huge waiting lists. Mayor Gregory stated that he does not want us to stick our head in the sand and hope this topic will never come up. He stated that he feels it is worth looking into and there are some properties we can tour. This way when the requests come up we can tell them right away whether or not we even want to discuss. Council agreed to look at dates for a field trip to tour a couple of different properties.


**Item No. 8. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda** The following items will appear on future agendas:

- 1) Mayor Gregory – there will be a meeting with Canyon Regional Water Authority to discuss future water planning for anyone who is interested in attending.
- 2) Mayor Gregory – we need to start figuring out what the next move is going to be on well projects, stage 2.
- 3) Mayor Gregory – Mr. Cicherski's has not been in the best of health therefore he has resigned as our food inspector so we will need to find a replacement.

**Item No. 9. Adjourn** With no further business Councilman Cormier made a motion to adjourn and Councilman Schott seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



Robert Gregory, Mayor



Angela Cantu, City Secretary-Treasurer

