

The La Vernia City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on October 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, La Vernia, Texas.

Item No. 1. Call to Order Mayor Robert Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Council members present were D. Bradford Beck, Randy Leonard, Bobby Richter, and Eloi Cormier. Staff member present were City Secretary-Treasurer Angela Cantu, La Vernia Municipal Development District Director Jennifer Kolbe, Police Chief Bruce Ritchey, and Code Enforcement Officer/Project Coordinator Janet Thelen.

Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation The Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer were recited.

Item No. 3. Citizens to be Heard The following citizens spoke:

- 1) Wes Becknell spoke regarding masonry requirements and the smoking ordinance. He stated that he was speaking on his own behalf and not on the behalf of the Greater La Vernia Chamber of Commerce.
- 2) Anthony Catrucco spoke regarding the smoking ordinance and recycling for residential customers.
- 3) Keith Johanson spoke regarding masonry requirements.
- 4) Jennifer Kolbe spoke regarding masonry requirements.
- 5) Melba Ramzinski spoke regarding the Texas Capital Fund Grant.

Item No. 4.A. – E. Consent Agenda Councilman B. Richter made some corrections to some of the meeting minutes. Councilman Beck made a motion to approve with corrections to minutes. Councilman Cormier seconded. **Motion carried 4 – 0.**

Item No. 5.A. Presentation and Discussion/Action Mr. Royce Gray from IESI explained the benefits to recycling. He explained that IESI could supply the carts and that the cost could be cut in half by using a 95 gallon cart with every other week pick up. Councilman B. Richter asked if a collection dumpster would work and Mr. Gray stated unfortunately the problem with the dumpster is that it would have to be "manned" by an employee. Councilman B. Richter asked if the carts would be color coded and Mr. Gray said they would be and would also be embossed with what is acceptable to be recycled. Councilman Cormier asked what the cost would be to the citizens and Mr. Gray said that he would need to run the numbers. Councilman B. Richter asked if the recyclables had to be separated in separate containers and Mr. Gray stated that they did not, one cart for all recyclable materials.

Item No. 5.B. Presentation and Discussion/Action Mayor Gregory stated that he included the subject of recycling in the Mayor's Corner article that appeared in this week's issue of the La Vernia News but had not received any feedback at this time. Councilman Beck stated that he would like to know the cost to the citizens before he decides on whether or not to approve this program. Councilman Leonard asked if participation in the program is all or none and Mr. Gray said that it is. Mr. Gray also stated that without running the exact numbers he thinks he can get the cost around \$3 per month for a recycling program. He stated that he would also like to get the City carts for the regular residential trash but understands that is a discussion for another time. Mayor Gregory asked if the Council would like to allow IESI a little bit of time to get the costs together and present those at a later time. Councilman Beck made a motion to table this item until IESI was able to provide the cost that would be charged to the citizens and Councilman Leonard seconded. **Motion carried 4 – 0.**

Item No. 5.C. Presentation and Discussion/Action Mayor Gregory explained that unfortunately Southwest Engineers is not available to proceed with a presentation at this time so this item will need to be tabled for a future meeting.

Item No. 5.D. Presentation and Discussion/Action Mayor Gregory explained that unfortunately Southwest Engineers is not available to proceed with a presentation at this time so this item will need to be tabled for a future meeting therefore no action was taken at this time.

Item No. 6.A. Ordinance Mayor Gregory explained ORDINANCE NO. 101112-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA VERNIA, TEXAS, PROHIBITING PARKING EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES IN THE DESIGNATED EMERGENCY VEHICLE PARKING SPACES AT THE LA VERNIA CITY PARK; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Councilman Beck made a motion to approve ORDINANCE NO. 101112-01 and Councilman Cormier seconded. With no further discussion, **motion carried 4 – 0.**

Item No. 6.B. Ordinance Mayor Gregory explained ORDINANCE NO. 101112-02, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA VERNIA, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 101311-01; PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL, HOUSEHOLD, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL REFUSE BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI); PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREFORE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. City Secretary Cantu stated that this increase is less than last year's increase due to the 0% fuel cost adjustment. Councilman B. Richter made a motion to approve and Councilman Beck seconded. With no further discussion, **motion carried 4 – 0.**

Item No. 7.A. Discussion/Action Councilman Beck stated that several prospective businesses have been requesting a smoking ordinance. Councilman Cormier asked how a smoking ordinance would affect the BBQ cook-off and Code Enforcement Officer Thelen stated that would be something that council would decide as to where smoking is and is not allowed. Councilman Beck stated that this is an item that he would like to work on. Mayor Gregory stated that this item would be put on a workshop agenda so that the details of a smoking ordinance could be worked out.

Item No. 7.C. Discussion/Action MDD Director Kolbe explained the 2013 Texas Capital Fund project to benefit Cub Country Child Care Center and Mesquite Bean Coffee Shop. Martha Drake from GrantWorks Inc stated that if council approves she and MDD Director Kolbe, will continue working with the businesses to obtain the grant funds. Councilman Cormier asked if this grant will help the La Vernia Crossing development. MDD Director Kolbe stated that this grant is to benefit retention and annexation therefore it will not. Councilman Beck asked if the council is entitled to see the businesses financial statements and Ms. Drake said that usually the businesses will work with City's attorney to review the statements confidentially. Ms. Drake also explained that with some changes to this type of grant a surety bond in the amount of 1% to 3% of the total project and it is difficult to find someone willing to provide that type of policy. Melba Ramzinski, one of the property owners of Cub Country Child Care Center and Mesquite Bean Coffee Shop, stated that the business has been doing very well. However, with the continued growth of the City this grant could benefit both the Ramzinski's and the City. Councilman Beck stated that he is not against the project but would like to see the financial

information. Mayor Gregory stated that this item can be put on the next Council workshop if that is acceptable.

Item No. 7.B. Discussion/Action Councilman Beck has met with several prospective developers who would like to see stronger requirements regarding masonry and he agrees. He would like for P & Z to review the ordinance and make a recommendation to the Council. Councilman Cormier asked if any changes would affect the current businesses and Councilman Beck stated that they would only affect new incoming businesses. Mayor Gregory suggested this item be discussed at length with the P & Z Commission in a workshop. MDD Director Kolbe stated that she could bring in the Texas Masonry Council to help with an ordinance. She explained that they could help with education and the pros and cons of masonry. Councilman Leonard stated that the council has promised to look into other items such as hydrology studies and feels that priorities need to be set.

Item No. 8.A. Staff/Council Updates Mayor Gregory stated that he would like to have National Night Out turn into more of a neighborhood activity.

Item No. 8.B. Staff/Council Updates Public Works Director Mills stated that his department is now fully staffed.

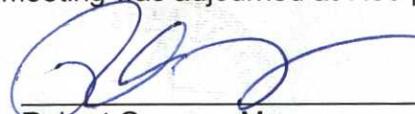
Item No. 8.C. Staff/Council Updates The Code Enforcement monthly update was submitted.

Item No. 8.D. Staff/Council Updates City Secretary Cantu stated that this will be used as an opportunity to update council on upcoming events and training opportunities.

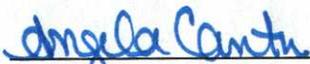
Item No. 9. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda The following items will need to be discussed on future agendas:

- 1) Permitted uses for zoning.
- 2) Updates to the personnel policy.

Item No. 10. Adjourn With no further business Councilman Beck made a motion to adjourn and Councilman Leonard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Robert Gregory, Mayor



Angela Cantu, City Secretary-Treasurer

