

The La Vernia City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on May 9, 2013 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 6:40 p.m. Council members present were Marie Gerlich, Randy Leonard, Eloi Cormier and John Richter. Staff member present were City Secretary-Treasurer Angela Cantu, Code Enforcement Officer/Special Projects Coordinator Janet Thelen, Public Works Director Jason Mills, Police Chief Bruce Ritchey, and Police Sergeant Danny Pitts.

Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Gregory gave an invocation.

Item No. 3. Citizens to be Heard Arthur Rakowitz came to discuss agriculture.

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

Item No. 5.A. Presentation and Discussion/Action Dennis Snow from the Greater La Vernia Park Foundation explained that the Park Foundation and La Vernia Little League wanted to put a metal building on the south fence towards the corner leaving room to be able to access on each end. Mr. Snow is also talking about getting with the County to see if they can assist in putting in a road to access the building. Councilwoman Gerlich asked if the Park Foundation and Little League would be splitting the cost of the materials. Mr. Snow stated that the expenses would be split 50/50. Code Enforcement Officer Thelen stated that the park is zoned R2 so it does not have to meet masonry standards. Mr. Snow stated that the next issue is the gate and new fence along San Antonio Street. Currently there is a black fence along San Antonio Street and a chain link fence on the corner. The question that came up is whether or not to extend the black fence all the way around the park. After a review of the finances the Park Foundation realizes they are short \$15,000 to complete this project. Councilman Cormier asked if the opening will be wide enough for two vehicles to pass through and also wanted to know if the materials would wash away during the first rain storm. Mr. Snow stated that the yes the opening will be large enough for two cars and the material used will be 8 inches thick so it does not wash away. Mayor Gregory stated that he thought that the City may be able to help with the cost but feels that the amount the Park Foundation is lacking may be too much for the City to incur. Mr. Snow stated that as much as the City could do to help out would be appreciated. Councilman Leonard stated that he believes the City had budgeted \$10,000 to put towards projects in the City Park and we can use it on this project. Mr. Snow stated that the Park Foundation has already planted 10 trees, put in a water fountain, and installed more playground equipment spending about \$100,000 on park repairs this year.

Item No. 5.B. Presentation and Discussion/Action Mayor Gregory stated that the road would not be put in until after the BBQ Cook-Off and if we have the \$10,000 set aside we should use it. Councilman Richter asked if we will need the money later for something else. Mayor Gregory stated that we are already at the end of the budget cycle and again if it is set aside for the park then we should use it for the park. Councilwoman Gerlich asked when they would start on these projects and Mr. Snow stated that it would start as soon as Little League was over. He also stated that the entrance may have to be moved and Councilman Leonard stated that a second entrance was recommended when the parking lot plan was presented so it should not be an issue. Mayor Gregory asked for a motion to utilize the \$10,000 we have set aside in the

park budget to assist with the funding of the black fence as long as the Park Foundation is able to compete the black fence for the \$15,000 they were quoted. Councilman Leonard stated that he feels that we need to cover the entire cost that the fence that the Park Foundation is lacking and made a motion to do a budget amendment to cover the additional cost of black fence. Councilman Cormier seconded the motion. **Motion carried 4 – 0.**

Item No. 5.C. Presentation and Discussion/Action Planning and Zoning Chairwoman Jennifer Moczygemba stated that the P & Z Commission thought that they would be ready to present the changes to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 38 Zoning however it may be another couple of months, maybe three. She stated that they are looking at towers, wind turbines, kiosks, and refreshment stands. Pointing out that we need to decide how we want our City to look and decided if we want to be proactive or reactive. Mayor Gregory stated that he wanted to thank the P & Z Commission for all of their time and dedication.

Item No. 6.A. Public Hearing A public hearing regarding the changes to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 38 Zoning was opened at 7:03 p.m. With no citizens to be heard the public hearing was closed at 7:03.48 p.m.

Item No. 5.D. Presentation and Discussion/Action Because the P & Z Commission is not ready to present changes there is no need to discuss this item at this time.

Item No. 7.A. Discussion/Action Mayor Gregory stated that he has obtained one of the two sanitary control easements necessary to proceed with the well projects. He stated that he is however having some issues with obtaining the second and would like some assistance from Council to obtain it. Councilwoman Gerlich stated that she would be happy to make a personal visit if that would be helpful. Mayor Gregory stated that the specs for the well are in and available in the City Secretary's office for review. Clarence Littlefield is drafting the necessary documents to get us moving forward with the next step in the process.

Item No. 7.B. Discussion/Action City Secretary Cantu stated that the six month CD with Generations Bank for the water/sewer account is coming due and we need to decide how to proceed. Councilman Cormier asked if we shopped around and City Secretary Cantu stated that we did not. Councilwoman Gerlich asked if we are ready to proceed with a project and will need to withdraw the money. Mayor Gregory stated that we are not ready at this time. Councilwoman Gerlich made a motion to renew the Generations Bank CD for the water/sewer account for one year and Councilman Richter seconded. **Motion carried 4 – 0.**

Item No. 7.C. Discussion/Action Mayor Gregory explained that we have been approached by American Tower to amend the City's lease agreement. They are requesting either a pre-paid lease or a lease extension. Mayor Gregory explained that the pre-paid lease is for a lump sum that he does not recommend to the Council. He stated that he will speak with the representative from American Tower to obtain some more clarifications on the options and bring it back to Council before a decision is made.

Item No. 7.D. Discussion/Action Mayor Gregory stated that we are in need of some clerical help in the office. He explained that when Jason was promoted to Public Works Director the hiring committee agreed that if clerical help would be necessary someone would be hired at that time. Councilman Richter asked what the salary offer would be for this position and Mayor Gregory stated \$9 to \$12 per hour for 20 to 25 hours a week. Councilman Leonard stated that

we agreed to not fill the landscape position and put in a combo license employee for the Public what's going on with that position. Mayor Gregory stated that if we can hire a clerical person then that position would not be filled but he has considered hiring a high school student to help with the mowing and stuff during the summer. Councilman Richter stated that he feels that would be cheaper but we could also hire a landscape company to come in and do all of the mowing for the City. Councilman Leonard stated that he has looked and it would be a fraction of the cost if not less than it would cost the City to employ a landscaper. He stated that if a combination water/sewer license employee is off the table then we should hire a company to mow and hire a full time clerical position. Mayor Gregory stated that we are looking to fill the void now and Councilman Leonard suggested a temp agency. Councilwoman Gerlich stated that she would like to look at all of the angles of satisfying the City's needs and is not opposed to having a workshop to discuss this matter. Councilman Leonard stated that he feels we should contact a temp agency to have a full time position filled stating that if someone is out sick then the part time person fills in full time hours and we have to find out how to get that person benefits. Mayor Gregory stated that he is suggesting part time to see if this will help the problem and at budget cycle see if we need to keep part time or move to a full time position. Councilman Leonard stated that for a part time person we are looking at \$17,000 a year for 29 hours a week at \$9 per hour. Councilwoman Gerlich stated that she could support going with part time now and at budget look for full time. Mayor Gregory stated that we will schedule a workshop to discuss this item in more detail.

Item No. 7.E. Discussion/Action This item will be discussed in the form of a workshop.

Item No. 8.A. Staff/Council Updates Police Chief Ritchey stated that the Department is working on some ongoing investigations. He also wanted to let the Council know that he may be looking for an additional officer at budget cycle due to the spike in calls. He is also looking into a different radio system because the one we have is not working the way it should. Sergeant Pitts explained the benefits of CopSync stating that next budget year we will have to pay for the system ourselves if we would like to keep it.

Item No. 8.B. Staff/Council Updates Public Works Director Mills stated that the Department has been fixing a lot of leaks lately and they are trying to get caught on the City's mowing. Councilman Richter asked if they have checked where sink hole keeps forming for any leaks. Director Mills stated that SARA ran a line and there are none the ground keeps shifting to cause the hole. He also stated that the men's restrooms at the park had to basically be redone.

Item No. 8.C. Staff/Council Updates Code Enforcement Officer Thelen stated that she has been spending a lot of time with the P & Z working on the changes to Chapter 38 Zoning. She has also received a lot of zoning inquiries.

Item No. 8.D. Staff/Council Updates City Secretary Cantu explained the calendar of upcoming dates she prepared for the Council.

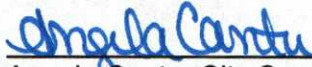
Item No. 9. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda The following items will appear as future agenda line items:

1) Code Enforcement Officer Thelen stated that a SUP for another drive through at LV Crossing will be on the June regular meeting agenda.

Item No. 10. Adjourn With no further business to discuss Councilman Cormier made a motion to adjourn and Councilman Leonard seconded. Councilman Richter presented a plaque of appreciation to the City on behalf of his family regarding late Councilman Bobby Richter. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Robert Gregory, Mayor



Angela Cantu, City Secretary-Treasurer

