

City of Holland
City Council Meeting
City Hall – 104 W. Travis
Monday, April 12, 2004, at 7:00 PM

Minutes

1. The Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Frank Horak @ 7 PM on 4/12/04. All members were present.

2. Citizen's comments: Debbie Burke, citizen of Bell County made a statement protesting the Bell County Justice Project. John Galligan, also a citizen of Bell County spoke against the Project.

3. Minutes of meeting of March 15, 2004 were corrected. Two items that were tabled will be later discussed in a work session, to be announced - (D&E). P 4, B Executive Committee wording is corrected. Mae motioned to accept minutes with changes/corrections. Eddie Bookman seconded and all were in favor. Motion granted.

5. New Business

A. Consider/Act and vote on a resolution to support the Bell County Justice Center Proposal.

Charlie Turnbo, a retired warden, and representing a political action group called the Bell County Citizens For Progress, spoke on behalf of the Bell County Justice Center Proposal to be voted on by Bell County voters May 15. The \$45,000,000 project includes a new courthouse, jail, and renovates the current downtown courthouse, and fixing jail kitchen in the old facility. Mr. Turnbo is seeking an endorsement from the City Council in support of the Proposal, just as the City of Morgan's Point recently endorsed the Project.

Council member, Sharon Simmons stated that this is a personal choice and does not feel comfortable agreeing with this resolution. Mae Smith said that she thought that the discussion should be at a Public Meeting. Curt Murray added that he did not know the feelings of the citizens of Holland with regard to this issue and would not impose his opinion on the behalf of others. Mae agreed. There was general discussion among all the council members, who agreed that no action will be taken on support of the resolution. The Mayor thanked all who came to speak on the issue.

Consider/act on the 2004 Corn Fest Street arrangement for temporary street closure of the state right-of-way and Mayor's cover letter to Department of Transportation regarding this year's contract. Stanley Koonsen was asked if we have copy of insurance, which he said will be provided at a later date. The only change was the location of car show (from Josephine to Crockett Street. Between Travis and Crocket on Lexington – the city will need to close that one for the tractor show. Close Travis off @ Hogan, because you can't get through there anyway. Dates were also corrected. Roy Schlickheisen motioned to accept the street agreement for the 2004 Corn Fest and the Mayor's letter to the Department of Transportation regarding same. Curt Murray seconded and all were in favor, and motion carried.

Mr. Koonsen and Chief Green discussed that Mr. Koonsen had agreed to have security folks working to make sure that we do not have back-up this year. Mr. Koonsen said that they would have signs up and also use a shuttle bus to help with traffic. Chief Green said that the baseball association rep said that there would not be anything going on at that time and the parking lot could be used to alleviate traffic and really not that far to walk. The Chief suggested that we might want to set up S. Front Street for handicap parking.

C. Johnny Hicks spoke on behalf of the Baseball Assn and informed the Council and citizens that they now have a \$1,000,000 insurance policy in effect for park. In addition, the Association requested garbage collection on a reasonable basis, and there was discussion of placement of dumpster, which was stipulated by Waste Management due to access of their truck being able to get in and out of area. The mayor stated that \$1,000 was available through Walmart donation that could be used for gravel to make the dumpster more assessable. Mae Smith stated she may have someone who will donate gravel. Mr. Hicks asked that park mowing/shredding be kept up and low spots be filled due to leveling. Mr. Hicks wants to designate area behind concession stand for workers, police, handicap only. He requested that city workers unlock restrooms in morning and the Association/Chief Green will lock at night, and asked Officer Green to come by the fields when games are being played and help observe the No Tolerance Rule. Officer Green stated and wanted everyone to understand that the signed agreement will give them (Baseball Association) controlling legal authority to ban someone from the facility and if person refuses to go, the Chief would act on the City's behalf and that person can go to jail for criminal trespassing. In response Mr. Hicks said that first action would be to request that the offending person leave the ball field for the night and if there is a need – discuss the situation at a later date. He further added that only if there was a problem would he ask for the Chief to step in. Mr. Hicks requested No Trespassing signs after 10:00 P.M. for the park and yellow barriers for the area. Chief Green said Hours of Operation should be posted. The Association asked that the City not lease out the fields during the time of the agreement/baseball season with the exception of Corn Fest. Mae Smith motioned to approve the Agreement which was seconded by Sharon Simmons and all were in favor. Motion passed. The Baseball Agreement was signed by the Mayor and Johnny Hicks.

D. Jay Engineering's Invitation to Bid on 2004 Waste and Wastewater System Improvements Project – approved publication in local paper motion by Curt Murray, seconded by Roy Schlickheisen. All were in favor and motion passed.

E. Sharon Simmons motioned for The City Council to be named as the Board of Adjustments as described in the P & Z. Curt 2nd and all were in favor and motion passed.

F. There was discussion of hiring Grant Basset as an Unpaid Reserve Police Officer – . The reserve applicant and that the who has 2 years as a regular officer/jailer and 6 months as a reserve officer. Mae Smith reminded the Chief that in an earlier council meeting on December 16, 2003, it had been decided that the Council would be provided application of the reserve officer and that this person would be interviewed by the council. Chief Green advised that Mr. Basset must complete urinalysis, psychological testing , and physical at his own expense. Chief Green asked about funding the expense because it is not in his budget at this time. The cost will be about \$1500 to fully equip the officer. When asked about the time the officer would be able to work – the Chief stated he did not know because at present the officer is working full time and going to college. The officer had told the Chief that he would probably be able to work every other weekend. The State requires that reserve officers put in 20 hours a month to maintain their certification. When asked if the money was in his budget, the Chief said that when he submitted is budget last year he had it in his budget, but that the Council had cut it out the current budget. The Chief also stated that any equipment purchased by the City for the officer is retained by the City with the exception of clothing. The consensus of Council is that there is a need for the officer and the Council needs to amend the budget for \$1500 to fund the position. Roy made the motion to put the budget revision for the reserve officer equipment on the next agenda. Sharon seconded the motion and all were in favor and motion carried.

G. Mae Smith spoke about the funding of the assessed portion of the CTWSC's USDA Reserve Fund in the amount of \$15,799.00. There are 3 ways to pay it: pay lump sum, divide payments into 10 years, or divide it into 12 months, or add \$.05 per \$1,000 added to monthly bill. Roy asked about the Reserve @ \$2.10 per 1000 gallons, currently paid along with the monthly bill – what happened to it? The current Reserve Fund was used for something else according to Mae Smith who is the City representative to CTWSC. She was asked by Roy Schlickheisen to find out actually what happened to it. The number of meters presently is 410. Curt Murray stated that we, as council members are not doing the citizens justice by allowing higher rates and jacking up rates to support this fiasco going on down at CTWSC. This is a not some well-organized run machine – This is a fiasco. Mae asked for additional council members to attend next meeting. The Mayor stated that additional info was needed and the Council would not make a decision until there was an explanation regarding the reserves already being paid into the Reserve Fund each month. Curt Murray wants to see GL accounting of the CTWSC Reserve Fund.

H. There was a motion by Mae Smith to appoint Eddie Bookman as Liaison to the Mayfield Museum and Library Board of Directors. Curt Murray seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Planning & Zoning – Renay Johnson reported the Committee had met on the following items:

1. Owners of 302 Josephine requested a variance on building a carport that did not meet the setback requirements. The proposed project would be built in back of two existing buildings that already do not meet the setback. The Committee noted that the property is over-built for the site, even though the Zoning Ordinance was in effect at the time of initial construction. Request was denied.
2. 302 Sheryl – owners have been trying to get info regarding/establish ownership, proper documentation, and a survey. The house on the property is not livable and must be torn down, and they want place an older mobile home on property. Photos were shown and mobile home looked as if it is presently in good condition. The mayor noted that IBC (International Building Code) states age of mobile home must be 5 years or newer, but that this case could be presented later date. Owners were advised that the issue was tabled until owner can first show ownership of property and provide a survey. This owner was then advised to get an attorney to assist her, as well as others who might be in a similar situation.

Ms. Johnson remarked that the Planning and Zoning Committee was put together in order to help this city grow. She noted that we also need to help our mobile home park grow and be able to meet the zoning standards. Council members agreed, and also thanked Renay and the Committee for their efforts and follow-up. It was agreed that there was still a lot of work to do.

Renay also stated that the P & Z would be meeting the 4th Monday of each month.

7. Council and Staff Reports:

A. Mayor's Report:

Set date for Personnel Policy Manual Workshop

B. Council Members' Reports:

- 1) Central Texas Water Supply Meeting – MAE SMITH. Officially the CTWS meeting will be hosted by Holland and Armstrong Water on May 25 at Kuhlmann Center @ 7 PM. There was discussion about whether water rates would be raised to pay the additional reserve assessment. It was recommended that the citizens come to this meeting.

C. Utility Director:

- 1) Utility Director's Monthly Report - Richard Reaves . Sharon made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Curt. All were in favor and motion carried.

D. Police Chief:

- A. Monthly Report, February 2004
- B. Citation Statistics Report, February 2004. There was discussion regarding parking issues on Sumner and Harper.

In addition, the Chief reported on a private donation of cameras for the City, and that furniture was donated by USDA and will have a letter prepared to be endorsed by the City Council to thank these organizations. Cameras are presently in the front of City Hall and at rear of building, cameras are in our school, a donation was also given of cameras to Rogers and Bartlett PD. Roy made motion to accept report and seconded by Eddie Bookman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8. The Council convened into executive session to Deliberate the Evaluation and Duties of City Secretary. The re-convened from executive session @ 10:30 P.M.

The Mayor read a letter of resignation from Janice Bracewell, City Secretary, effective immediately. Sharon made motion to accept resignation of Janice Bracewell and to appoint Peggy Tracy as Interim City Secretary. Eddie Bookman seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried.

9. Curt made the motion to adjourn, with a second by Mae Smith. All in favor, motion carried.

*The City Council will announce it will go into Executive Session, if necessary, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to receive advice from Legal Counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, litigation, and personnel matters as specifically listed on the meeting agenda.