

FARMERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2015

The Farmersville City Council met in regular session on February 10, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall with the following members present: Mayor Helmberger, John Klostermann, John Politz, Michael Hesse and Jim Foy. Councilman not present was Russell Chandler. Staff members present were City Manager Ben White, Police Chief Mike Sullivan, Fire Chief Kim Morris, City Attorney Alan Lathrom, Warrant Officer Rick Ranspot, Librarian Trisha Dowell and City Secretary Edie Sims.

Item I) CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Mayor Helmberger called the meeting to order. Edie Sims called the roll and announced a quorum was present. Mayor Helmberger welcomed all guests and visitors. Tom Waitschies, Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Farmersville, offered the invocation with Mayor Helmberger leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

Mayor Helmberger announced First United Methodist Church will be having Fat Tuesday celebration on February 17th. Jim Foy announced Riley Evans, firefighter in Plano, has walked the entirety of the Chaparral Trail from New Boston to Farmersville in under 70 hours.

Item II) CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Helmberger requested Item D – Fire Department Report, Item E – Municipal Court Report and Item G – Public Works Report be withdrawn for discussion. With no other reports being withdrawn for discussion, John Klostermann motioned to approve Items A, B, C, F, H and I with John Politz seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item D – Fire Department Report: Mayor Helmberger questioned the amount paid by the Volunteers for the K-12 power saw. Fire Chief Kim Morris stated the cost was \$500 for both the power saw and the new chainsaw.

Jim Foy noted Collin County is no longer issuing burn permits. What now? Collin County Fire Marshal interprets the ruling as zero burning in Collin County. There is questions surrounding this new ruling and who will be the enforcement. Per Chief Morris, the City Attorney is reviewing this information now. State Law states there is no burning unless an exception exists. Burning is not allowed in the City Limits. Jim Foy motioned to approve the Fire Department Report with Michael Hesse seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item E – Municipal Court Report: Mayor Helmberger questioned the number of cases dismissed by the Prosecutor if these were cases involved the purging of old warrants. Warrant Officer Rick Ranspot stated he felt these were cases involved during traffic court and were not related to the warrant purge process. Mayor Helmberger

requested an item be specific to the warrant purge denoting those warrants separately. John Klostermann motioned to approve the Municipal Court Report with John Politz seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item G – Public Works Report: Mayor Helmberger questioned why the striping has not been completed at Orange/Beech/Rike Streets. City Manager Ben White indicated the striping previously used by the City will return at his first change to do the striping. Mayor Helmberger stated we may need to investigate other striping companies to get the job done. The posting has been finalized so there is no reason for delay.

Mayor Helmberger also stated there is a large area of water when it rains on the north side of South Main Bridge. Mr. White stated he has addressed this issue with TxDOT. The drains have been closed off which allows overflow. TxDOT is aware of this problem.

Under the Property and Buildings section of the Public Works Report, Mayor Helmberger requested a stripe on the stoop in front of City Hall. The area is very dangerous and would like it marked until such time the front of City Hall is addressed for ADA compliancy.

There have been a large number of complaints surrounding the high electric bills. City Manager Ben White indicated there are several contributing factors to this issue. Colder temperatures averaging 46 degrees, additional days between reading cycles – some 4 to 7 extra days, usage occurred during Christmas and New Year holidays when more people were home or had visitors and lastly the majority of those complaining about the high usage use electric heat. Other electric utilities were contacted and they are experiencing the same issues with high electric bills. Mr. White stated he is dedicated to retrieving all the data to explain situations such as this. Mayor Helmberger stated when the new meters are installed, read dates should be consistent. City Manager Ben White also added average billing will be included as a service after April so that one year's worth of billing can be used. Mr. White stated he understands residents who are on a limited or fixed income.

Mayor Helmberger stated the average billing may need to be delayed during milder months. Mr. White commented the City will need to consider any under hardships on the customers as well as the City. Jim Foy indicated the rate for the electric has not changed.

Under the Refuse section of the Public Works Report, Mayor Helmberger asked how the contract for Household Hazardous Waste collection of residents outside the City but that are receiving water from the City is being handled. Mr. White indicated the contract has not been changed as this adjustment only affects a handful of customers and CWD was willing to offer this additional service. The contract comes due next year and this will be the opportune time to make the adjustment for this change. Mayor Helmberger requested a letter confirming this additional service be sent to the City for clarification.

Jim Foy requested the Wastewater Treatment Plant Daily Flow Chart within the Public Works Report have fewer years extending the chart to see the daily flow on wastewater.

John Klostermann motioned to approve the Public Works Report with Michael Hesse seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

Item III) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Council did not request any information or clarification regarding Informational Items.

ITEM IV – A) PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT

Mayor Helmberger opened the Public Hearing at 6:27pm asking for those FOR the planning grant submission to come forward. Cloy Richards, with Grantworks, came forward explaining the bi-annual competition for the Planning/Capacity Study grant. Mayor Helmberger then asked for those OPPOSING the grant submission to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Helmberger closed the Public Hearing at 6:29pm.

ITEM V – A) SECOND READING – CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON AN ORDINANCE REGARDING DRIVEWAY APPROACHES, DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING HAZARDS

With no changes made since the first reading of the ordinance, John Politz motioned to approve the ordinance as presented with Jim Foy seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM VI – A) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT UNDER THE PLANNING/CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

A resolution was presented to the Council regarding the planning grant as discussed in the Public Hearing. Michael Hesse motioned to approve the resolution as presented with John Politz seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM VI – B) RECEIVE COMMUNITY WASTE DISPOSAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

Greg Roemer, President of Community Waste Disposal, presented the annual report for 2014. Farmersville residents recycled 209 tons during 2014 which averages 35 pounds per residence per month. The tonnage is up 17%. The CWD driver experienced no incidents last year.

CWD began working with the City on the idea of a Household Hazardous Waste Program which was initiated in October. The results have been very positive. Since the beginning of the HHW program, 1, 021 pounds have been collected. Along with area events, CWD has also partnered with the City and was awarded the Community Partnership Award for the Keep Texas Beautiful project.

Mr. Roemer and area representative Robert Medigovich were pleased to report with 209 tons being recycled during 2014, the City saved 3,553 trees; 79,750 gallons of oil; 1,463,000 gallons of water; 690 yards of landfill space and 856,900 kilowatt hours of electricity. Mr. Roemer presented Mayor Helmberger with a Recycled Glass Award made in the USA from 100% post-consumer recycled glass.

Jeanine Langley came forward expressing gratitude for the CWD driver who is very careful and watches for children. Mayor Helmberger requested a letter to document the added service of Household Hazardous Waste to residents outside the City Limits that are receiving water service and will now be able to utilize the HHW service.

ITEM VI – C) RECEIVE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Ben White read a list of accomplishments during 2014 and goals for 2015. Among those accomplishments included the Farmersville Economic Development Corporation planning a Towne Centre project; funding the electrical system engineering; and two façade grants. Goals for FEDC include funding engineering for the wastewater treatment plant, continued activities around the Towne Centre planning and two more façade grants.

Farmersville Community Development Corporation funded \$60,000 for a matching grant on the Chaparral Trail improvements; continued supporting the Main Street program; continued and improved downtown Christmas decorations; and purchased three bleachers for the JW Spain Athletic Complex. Goals for 2015 include continuing the Main Street Program; continued support of the Farmersville Heritage Museum; and funding matching funds for the Chaparral Trail grant project.

The Planning & Zoning Commission was very active during 2014 with an e-cigarette ordinance; dumpster use regulation ordinance; driveway/parking regulation ordinance; and initiating a Citizens Advisory Committee to review and track the Comprehensive Plan goals and accomplishments. The Planning & Zoning Commission plans on aligning the Comprehensive Plan and Thoroughfare Plan with other City design requirements during 2015.

The Building & Property Standards Commission reviewed 4 properties for compliance issues during 2014. No demolition actions were required. The Commission will continue to review properties as required during 2015.

The Centennial Committee successfully replaced the exterior doors for the Civic Center and Library during 2014. During 2015, the Committee plans to help resolve ADA compliancy issues at the Civic Center and Library along with resolving Fire Marshal issues at both facilities.

The Marketing Committee enhanced the City's website during 2014 and adapted the website to mobile devices as well as adding mini calendars. The Committee's goal

for 2015 is to update and repair the Farmersville "Welcome" signs and continue promoting Farmersville.

The Parks and Recreation Board paid for one bleacher at the JW Spain Athletic Complex and developed the Chaparral Trail stone campfire area. The Board is planning to develop and improve the JW Spain Athletic Complex during 2015.

The Main Street Board was recognized again as a National Main Street designation and will continue this work in 2015. Continued events supported by the Main Street Board include Audie Murphy Day, Farmers and Fleas; Chalk the Walk and Christmas events. A New event promoted by the Main Street Board is Jazz on Main.

From the Public Works Department, a huge effort was made to successfully bring our municipally-owned electric department in-house and is now Farmersville Electric which included personnel, tools, equipment, vehicles, ordinances, accounting system, processes and procedures. Other accomplishments during 2014 by the Public Works Department include the massive clean-up from the ice storm in December of 2013 which carried over well into 2014. Eight street projects were completed which were funded through the General Obligation Bond. Three water projects were also completed and being funded through the General Obligation Bond. Upgrades were made to the Public Works Service Center. Goals for the Department during 2015 include planning and design work for the East Collin County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant; complete the remaining street and utility projects funded by the General Obligation Bond; complete the automated metering systems for both water and electric utilities; complete Phase III of the Chaparral Trail; setting up processes for standard parts; and setting up a distribution system outage report for water, sewer and electricity.

The Police Department implemented the first Citizens Police Academy with nine people graduates. The Department upgraded their vehicle fleet with two new vehicles during 2014. A generator system was installed in the Public Safety Building in preparation of emergency situations. Goals for 2015 include adding a new police officer position and starting the Citizens on Patrol Program.

The Fire Department worked in conjunction with the Police Department with the generator system being installed. A highlight of 2014 included an agreement with Collin County to provide Fire Marshal services. Goals for 2015 include adding another paid fireman and ordering 15 sets of bunker gear.

During 2014, Administration installed a paperless system for certain key documentation areas of the City. For 2015, staff would like to spend more time cross-training for more efficiency in City Hall. The Performance Evaluation was redesigned and will be improved upon during 2015.

The Library Department upgraded their website allowing mobile applications during 2014. A couple of grants are expected to be funded during 2015 to include "Collection Development for Spanish" and "Book Drop Improvement" which will assist the Library's functionality. The Library Board is working on a "Free Little Library" project to be placed on the Downtown Square.

The Municipal Court was very successful with the Warrant Officer Program. A major goal during 2015 for the Court is to reduce warrants older than 2005.

The Information Technology Department has been diligently working on network connectivity during 2014 allowing storage of vital documentation to be secure. During 2015, plans of implementing a new INCODE/Administrative server are planned.

Grant funds were approved through the Community Development Block Grant for wastewater improvements which will free funds from the Bond. The City has applied for another grant to augment planning with the Comprehensive Planning. The City also received a grant from Collin County Open Space to complete Phase III of the Chaparral Trail. The City established an ADA Task Force to facilitate ADA needs throughout the City. During 2015, the City intends to complete tasks to improve emergency readiness systems including emergency preparedness drills, improve finance document procedures and submit an application to the Texas State Comptroller for a Platinum Award for transparency.

Mayor Helmberger thanked all the staff for a job well done. Michael Hesse stated the transition of Farmersville is reflecting a good place to live.

ITEM VI – D) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A CONTRACT WITH ITRON TO SUPPORT THE ELECTRONIC METERING SYSTEM

A contract has been agreed upon with minor changes between ITRON and our City Attorney. The final contract has been presented to the Council for discussion. The minor changes included references to training which City Manager Ben White and Councilman Jim Foy took exception to. The training statement has been amended so that the City will not be required to attend “required” trainings at City expense in order to operate the electronic metering system. Another minor change which was made involved the provision of the City paying taxes which were removed.

City Manager Ben White recommended Council approving the improved contract as presented which will allow the electronic meter reading systems to interface with the water as well as electric meters. The cost is \$1,300 per year. Jim Foy motioned to approve the contract with John Politz seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM VI – E) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR SAFETY RADAR TRAILER AND RADAR RECORDING

Police Chief Mike Sullivan requested the Council approve the resolution presented to facilitate a grant application for a safety radar trailer and a radar recording system. Both devices will provide data to the Police Officer’s to help make their jobs more efficient. John Klostermann motioned to approve the resolution as presented with Michael Hesse seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval. Michael Hesse questioned where the radar equipment will be

used with Chief Sullivan stating the equipment is mobile and we be utilized throughout the City.

ITEM VI – F) UPDATE ON SIGNAL AT FARMERSVILLE PARKWAY AND HIGHWAY 78

City Manager Ben White stated TxDOT is considering the mast arm design for the designated location at Farmersville Parkway and Highway 78. TxDOT is attaining survey results to allow the mast arms to be closer to the intersection. Electrical issues have been resolved and Farmersville Electric is ready for the installation. Depending on the mast pole placement, there is a possibility of having two lanes versus three lanes on the east side of Highway 78. Mayor Helmberger stated a traffic impact study would need to be performed to make a decision of loading for turning movements and to maximize efficiency.

Mr. White stated there are three options for the City to consider: 1) use of an opticon system used by fire trucks, which the City would pay for; 2) have illuminated street signs, which the City would pay for; and 3) powder coating the mast arms black which covers the galvanized plating which will fade and chip over time. Although this is TxDOT's project, the City can interject. A positive though, the construction area will not require grading other than the ditch line itself.

ITEM VI – G) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON THE RECYCLE CENTER LOCATED AT THE PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE CENTER

City Manager Ben White came before the Council requesting their consideration regarding the Recycle Center located at the Public Works Service Center. With the Recycle Center being inside the fenced area of the Service Center, an issue of security has arose. In years past, the City has supported the Recycle Center and was encouraged to facilitate this program. Now that improvements have been made to the Service Center property, Mr. White reminded Council that he is trying to have a semblance of security.

Recently, some items have been missing and this is a concern as the area is considered open and not controlled during the Recycle Center hours. Judy Brandon and Nona Gooch, who operate the Recycle Center, were present for this discussion topic. Mr. White restated his desire is to secure the Public Works area. Over the past few years, recycling has changed inside the City of Farmersville with curbside recycling and now the City offers Hazardous Household Waste removal. A discussion was held to further discuss the ongoing use of the Public Works Service Center to include having a separate discussion with Judy Brandon and Nona Gooch at a later date.

Judy Brandon informed the Council of the importance of this program and stated the area is always monitored while the Recycle Center is open. She also informed the Council that others from outside the City utilize this Recycle Center including a couple from Sulphur Springs. Between December and January, the Recycle Center attained 15 tons of recyclable materials. All the steel and aluminum is sold and returned to the Community Food Pantry. Last year \$1,500 was donated to assist with the Food Pantry. Michael Hesse stated community service workers can also work through this program.

Mr. White indicated a problem has also been occurring with dumping in the City's dumpsters which costs the City to have removed and the City does not get full use of the dumpsters. A camera system has been installed which should help with some of the issues. Mayor Helmberger stated this program and location was discussed a few years ago. Mr. White agreed the area for this program needs to be enclosed and monitored. Mr. White also stated with the electric trucks and other equipment, the valuables has increased.

Mayor Helmberger stated he would like to have a separate meeting with Judy Brandon, Nona Gooch, and City Manager Ben White and invited a maximum of two Councilmen to attend. Jim Foy and Michael Hesse stated they would be interested in this discussion. Mr. White offered to reconstruct fences to divide the property or relocate to another location entirely. No action was taken by the Council.

ITEM VI – H) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW MANUFACTURING WITH A RETAIL FRONT IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Jim Foy requested this item for Council discussion. Currently the Central Area District (downtown) does not allow manufacturing. There are other Main Street cities that do allow manufacturing as long as retail is in the front. The manufacturing would be similar to Rex Thain's manufacturing business. Mr. Foy stated this would attract more visitors to downtown and requested this item be sent to the Planning & Zoning Commission for discussion and a recommendation. Council concurred to send to P&Z.

ITEM VII) REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF PLACING ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No one requested items for future agendas.

ITEM VIII) ADJOURNMENT

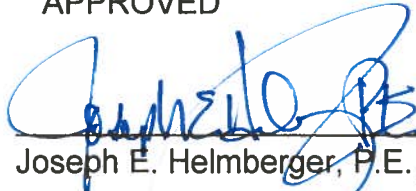
Council adjourned at 7:39:41pm.

ATTEST



Edie Sims, City Secretary

APPROVED



Joseph E. Helmberger, P.E., Mayor

