

FARMERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2015

The Farmersville City Council met in regular session on August 25, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall with the following members present: Mayor Joe Helmberger, John Klostermann, John Politz, Michael Hesse, Leaca Caspari and Jim Foy. Staff members present were City Manager Ben White, Police Chief Mike Sullivan, Fire Chief Kim Morris, City Attorney Alan Lathrom, Finance Director Daphne Hamlin, Warrant Officer Rick Ranspot, Main Street Manager Adah Leah Wolf, Librarian Trisha Dowell and City Secretary Edie Sims.

Item 1) 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. Edie Sims offered the invocation. Mayor Helmberger led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

Mayor Helmberger announced those wanting to speak on an item not subject to a Public Hearing to come forward.

Marsha Hinze, residing at 809 Westgate, stated she and her husband Tony Gist moved to Farmersville in 1971. Ms. Hinze spoke of the Town Hall meeting and how it abruptly ended 19 minutes prior to 8pm with 8 people standing in line to speak. Ms. Hinze stated she is concerned the Muslim population are trying to get a foothold into our town, into the schools and the City Council. We will not be able to say the Pledge of Allegiance or fly our flags. Many of the flags, such as the MIA and POW flags are not begin flown because of the Muslims. Ms. Hinze stressed the importance for the community to attend the meetings and the citizens to be informed. She also stated she thinks the cemetery issue should have been brought to the public and given the public the opportunity to vote on the issue. The Farmersville Times has made a mockery of the citizens of Farmersville. She is confident in the City leaders but asked the leaders to listen to the citizens.

Gwen Reynolds, residing at 5258 CR 660, stated she has been in conversation with a representative of the IACC, head of the Plano Mosque. Per Ms. Reynolds, the representative has expressed concerns to her regarding continuing with the cemetery in Farmersville. Ms. Reynolds stated she is continuing her efforts to speak with the IACC to discourage their cemetery plans in Farmersville. Ms. Reynolds stated she attended the training for the Planning and Zoning Commission last night and was proud to see the initiative to learn the rules and guidelines. She also stated she was shocked the Master Plan and maps were not displayed.

Cathy Strong, residing at 314 Woodard, stated she has lived in Farmersville for several years and Woodard Street has yet to have a street sign. Meals on Wheels, deliveries and other services are being affected by the lack of street signage. She has paid her taxes for many years and would like to see street signage. She felt embarrassed to offer directions by landmarks rather than having proper street signage.

Sandy Sossaman, residing at 800 Shinn Circle, re-emphasized the street signage need for Farr Hill Lane and Summit Streets. She does the billing for Verona Water Supply and patrons are often unable to come to her residence without difficulty due to lack of signage.

Mayor Helmberger read a proclamation proclaiming Sunday, September 6, 2015 as Public Safety Sunday with the event being held at Pathway Church on FM 547.

Mayor Helmberger read a proclamation proclaiming Saturday, August 29, 2015 as Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz Day with an event being held at the Rike Library at 10:30am on August 29th.

Item II – A) ONLY PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED FARMERSVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECTS AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Mayor Helmberger opened the Public Hearing at 6:17pm and asked for those FOR the Farmersville Community Development Corporation Projects and Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to come forward. Paul Kelly, Chairman of the FCDC, came forward stating the projects and budget were well thought out and the Board worked very hard to provide the best for Farmersville. With no others coming forward to speak FOR the proposed budget, Mayor Helmberger requested those OPPOSING the proposed budget to come forward.

Diane Piwko, residing at 200 McKinney Street, came forward stating the National Registry project has been on the FCDC's project list for 6 years and it still is not completed. She stated the Council needs to make sure this project gets completed. She and other downtown businesses are losing 20% of tax credits due to our City not being in the National Register. It seems this project cannot be pushed through and after this length of time, this project should not be FCDC's project but become the City's project to complete. The last action taken was in March 2015. This affects tourism and our historic preservation.

With no one else coming forward, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:20pm. Leaca Caspari asked Adah Leah Wolf the status of the National Register. Ms. Wolf stated the goal has been met and the information has been submitted to the State.

ITEM II – B) ONLY PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED FARMERSVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECTS AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Mayor Helmberger opened the Public Hearing at 6:21pm and asked for those FOR the Farmersville Economic Development Corporation Projects and Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to come forward. Kevin Meguire, Vice-Chairman for the FEDC, came forward stating the projects and budget is straightforward. FEDC's focus is the need for wastewater. There has been interest in Farmersville but due to the lack of infrastructure, it is costing us opportunities. FEDC is forecasting for the downtown initiative.

With no one else coming forward, Mayor Helmberger asked for those OPPOSING the projects and budget for FEDC to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Helmberger closed the Public Hearing at 6:24pm.

Mayor Helmberger stated he appreciated both FCDC and FEDC's commitment to the City of Farmersville.

ITEM II – C) FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED 2015 PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF FARMERSVILLE

Mayor Helmberger opened the Public Hearing at 6:27pm and asked for those FOR the proposed tax rate to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Helmberger requested those OPPOSING the proposed tax rate to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Helmberger closed the Public Hearing at 6:28pm.

ITEM III – A) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON CITY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Helmberger questioned Finance Director Daphne Hamlin the timeline of the warrant purge. Warrant Officer Rick Ranspot was available and stated the first phase of the purge has been completed. A warrant round-up is being planned and contacts are being made with defendants who have warrants through our Court. City Manager Ben White stated the figures are being transferred to our books to reflect the purge.

Jim Foy stated the water revenues does not reflect this month. Ms. Hamlin stated the water bills have not been sent out but should be by the end of this week. Mr. Foy stated he would like to see how this month fared. John Klostermann motioned to approve the City Financial Reports with John Politz seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes, Leaca Caspari and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM III – B) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON DECREASE IN FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY FROM COLLIN COUNTY

Librarian Trisha Dowell came before the Council informing of a decrease in funding from Collin County in the amount of \$15,000 to the City of Farmersville. A total of \$240,000 was cut from the County's budget affecting all the libraries in Collin County that was being funded by Collin County. Commissioner's Court voted to deny this funding as this service is not deemed an essential County service per Mayor Helmberger. Mayor Helmberger also stated the County Commissioners have spoken of removing funding for Fire Departments.

Ms. Dowell stated the funding being cut approximates to 9% of the Library's budget. Mayor Helmberger stated Council can cut the budget or charge non-city residents for the services. This will affect the budget for a planned employee status from part-time employee to full-time. Ms. Dowell reported of a total of 4,945 patrons, 1,541 are live in the County which is 40% of the circulation. Mayor Helmberger requested a proposal regarding non-citizen users at the next meeting. Mayor Helmberger stated he would prefer not cutting our budget, but if it is required, a budget amendment will be necessary. Ms. Dowell stated several of the Librarians being affected by the budget cut are attending the County Commissioner's public hearings. Their next meetings will be held on September 8th and 14th.

Services provided to all patrons include educational materials, assistance with applying for jobs and creating resumes, college classes can be taken at the Library, research, public access computers, applying for benefits and other services.

Judy Brandon, Chairman of the Library Board, came forward stating she had not heard of this information and would respectfully request the Library Board be offered the opportunity to discuss and make a recommendation to the Council. The Library is a vital part of this community.

Leaca Caspari commended the job informing the Council of this issue and asked this information be made available to the public. Mayor Helmberger stated the City of Wylie is seriously considering adopting fees to offset their deficiency from Collin County. No action was taken by Council.

ITEM III – C) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON SWIMMING POOL STANDARDS INCLUDING BACKWASH STANDARDS

City Manager Ben White stated when other International Building Codes were adopted several years ago, the International Swimming Pool and Space Code, 2012 Edition was not in existence. This Code is well written and includes the issue of backwashing. A General Compliance section of the Code was included with the Council packet for review. The Code also covers public swimming pools and semi-private pools such as a hotel or spa.

Mr. White recommended adopting the Code with a caviat included for the backwashing to be contained to the storm water drainage. Another note, anything built from this day forward would need to be in compliance with the adopted ordinance. The only pools grandfathered would be the existing pools; however the backwashing would be required for all pools.

Michael Hesse questioned if it would be prudent to ask metroplex installers of which codes and standards are being followed. Todd Madvig is our local pool installer/operator. Per Mr. White, we can go farther to ask this question, or could poll other cities. However, the Code presented is a new code and it is unknown how many cities have this Code adopted. Council concurred to hold processing an ordinance until a report is made with compliance.

ITEM III – D) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON TENANT RIGHTS INFORMATION

Mayor Helmberger opened this item for discussion stating there are several rental properties in need of repair. With that, consideration was made regarding inspection of rental properties. This topic was objected by local realtors and local landlords. Realtors suggested before the City takes actions, to educate renters. An informational brochure was created for this purpose. Mayor Helmberger stated he would like these brochures to be included with our water billing.

Code Enforcement can be accomplished from a street perspective, but not inside the structures. The brochure is a regurgitation of Texas Young Lawyers Association. The brochure can also be made available at the Chamber of Commerce, the City's website and with our Code Enforcement Officer. Council concurred this information is valuable

and needs to be disseminated. Mayor Helmberger stated the Collin County Realtors Association has agreed to provide the printed material at no cost to the City.

ITEM III – E) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON AWARDING THE BID FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT WASTEWATER PROJECT

City Manager Ben White stated the project bids were originally rejected as the alternates were less expensive than the actual project price due to a new technique call pipe bursting. The project was re-bid using pipe bursting as the preferred method with typical excavation as the alternate.

The lowest bid was \$245,500 provided by LeeTech Energy Services, LLC with the original cost being \$297,000. There is a cost savings for the City to allow funding for more projects. Grand Prairie uses LeeTech Energy Services and they are the approved vendor for Roto-Rooter. Mr. White recommended LeeTech Energy Services be awarded the bid. Jim Foy motioned to award the bid to LeeTech Energy Services with Leaca Caspari seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes, Leaca Caspari and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM III – F) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH COLLIN COUNTY FOR EMS SERVICES DURING 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR

A contract amendment was submitted from Collin County reflecting a cost share adjustment which benefited our budget \$1,790.79. Jim Foy motioned to approve the contract amendment with John Klostermann seconding the motion. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes, Leaca Caspari and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM III – G) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON A CHANGE ORDER FOR PHASE III OF THE CHAPARRAL TRAIL FOR PAVEMENT MARKINGS, DIRT WORK, SIGNAGE AND ADDITIONAL DECOMPOSED GRANITE

City Manager Ben White informed the Council of a Change Order for the Chaparral Trail that will take care of the Trail crossing at FM 2194. There has been contention between the City and TxDOT regarding the crossing. TxDOT requires the crossing be at a 90° angle. With their 90° angle policy, the City had to adjust the cost of the project which is the purpose of the Change Order. Mayor Helmberger stated it was critical to mark the crossings at this highway intersection due to vehicles traveling at high rates of speed. Council questioned when the work would be completed with Mr. White replying the contractor was placed on hold while the Change Order was being approved. The work should be underway in September. Another hold-up is the powder coating of the kiosks. Michael Hesse questioned if there are plans of lighting the crossings in the future. Mr. White stated he will look into this need and investigate funding.

ITEM III – H) CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT UPON DONATING THE CONEX STORAGE CONTAINERS UTILIZED BY CITY HALL

City Manager Ben White informed the Council the Conex storage containers previously used by City Hall for records were in terrible condition. The roof was leaking, the floors were rotten, and the overall condition was poor. These containers were emptied

some time ago and used for the train derailment training. Since these containers no longer serve the City of Farmersville's purpose, Mr. White stated he would like the Council to consider donating these containers to the City of Melissa who has expressed an interest. The City of Melissa has also offered to pay all costs to have the containers removed. Since the City of Farmersville does not allow these types of structures, we need to be an example and follow our own standards.

John Klostermann motioned to donate the storage containers to the City of Melissa with Jim Foy seconding the motion. Michael Hesse stated the City should now mow the area that is overgrown. A poll of the Council was taken as follows: John Klostermann yes, John Politz yes, Michael Hesse yes, Leaca Caspari and Jim Foy yes. Motion passed with full Council approval.

ITEM III – I) UPDATE ON CHAPARRAL TRAIL PROJECT

City Manager Ben White indicated the construction completion date is scheduled during September 2015. The only activities remaining are the bollards, kiosks, crossings and drainage. We are waiting on the correct color to be painted on the kiosks according to the City's branding.

ITEM III – J) UPDATE ON STREET, WATER AND WASTEWATER GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECTS

During a recent rain event, issues arose on Santa Fe Street causing the construction to stop and residents along the construction area to be very frustrated. The soil has had lime installed which is now creating a problem on Sid Nelson as well as South Washington. The north side of the curbs along Santa Fe have been poured with concrete. With 5-6 more good weather days, the curbing will be completed. If no rain next week, asphalt should be poured along South Washington and Santa Fe Streets. Sid Nelson may be still 3-4 weeks out. The construction has been an imposition to the citizens, but the final product is not far away.

Once these streets are completed, the construction will turn to Locust Street if there are funds remaining. The street signs are on order along Highways 78, 380 and Gotcher Street. From there Woodard, Main Street, McKinney Street and the main thoroughfares including Orange and Sycamore will have signage. Once those have signs are completed, then Maple and Hamilton Streets. The signs are being installed in 3 to 4 phases with Highway frontages, then main thoroughfares first.

Since an issue was brought up regarding a business at Farr Hill Lane and Summit, this sign will also be installed. There is currently \$95,000 in the budget for the sign project through the bond funds. The signs will match what is installed at Onion Alley and South Main. City Manager Ben White displayed the sample signs for the audience.

The water and wastewater projects are nearing the end. Items 24-26 on the project list are being accomplished through CDBG grant funds. These projects are anticipated to begin next month. The Floyd Street liftstation project is in engineering now. This project is expected to refurbish the existing liftstation. This particular project may extend beyond this year's end.

ITEM III – K) UPDATE ON HIGHWAY 380 PROJECT

The Walnut Street railroad crossing should be completed by the end of September. City Manager Ben White stated he has been very persuasive to have the Main Street Bridge open for the Old Time Saturday event the first Saturday of October. TxDOT may delay construction due to this major event. There is not much progress presently. Construction completion should not be long after the crossing is completed. There is still an issue with drainage but will not be fully resolved until the railroad bridge is completed.

Jim Foy stated he still is requesting signage along Highway 380 to direct to our historic downtown. Mayor Helmberger stated the Marketing Committee is working on that issue.

ITEM IV) EXECUTIVE SESSION – DELIBERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO THE CITY SECRETARY

Council exited into Executive Session at 7:15pm.

Council resumed the regular meeting from Executive Session at 7:44pm with no action from the Executive Session.

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

John Klostermann requested the Council to address issues from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the Comprehensive Plan, the Thoroughfare Plan and the Subdivision Plan. Exact discussion points can be gathered from the last P&Z minutes.

John Politz requested an update on the traffic signal. No one else requested items for future agendas.

ITEM VI) ADJOURNMENT

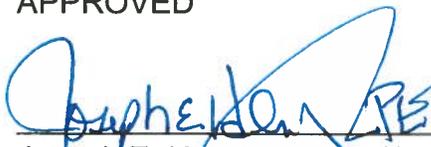
Council adjourned at 7:47pm.

ATTEST



Edie Sims, City Secretary

APPROVED



Joseph E. Helmberger, P.E., Mayor

