



**City of La Vernia**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
City Council Chambers of La Vernia City Hall  
102 E. Chihuahua Street, La Vernia, Texas 78121

April 14, 2016  
6:30 PM

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order – Mayor Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. All members of the council were present with the exception of Councilwoman Moczygemba.**

**2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Texas Pledge** (*Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible*).

*Invocation was given by Councilman Schott. All in attendance cited the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.*

**3. Citizens to be Heard** - There were no citizens to be heard.

**4. Consent Agenda**

*(All consent agenda items are considered routine by City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember requests an item be removed and considered separately.)*

- A. Minutes from the March 10, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Minutes from the March 16, 2016 Joint City Council & Planning & Zoning Workshop
- C. La Vernia Police Department – Reports, Traffic Violations & Arrests; and Number of Occurrences by Offense for the month of March 2016;
- D. Check Register and financial report for the month of March 2016

**Motion:** Councilman Schott made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Cormier. **Motion passed 4-0.**

**5. Presentation**

**A. Presentation from the La Vernia Citizens Introducing Community Band concept to La Vernia.**

Elaine Stephens spoke to City Council on behalf of the County Line Community Band. The County Line Community Band is a non-profit organization that plays for free. There are approximately 25-30 experienced members who have played for over 20 years purely for the love of music. Their genre consists of classical, polkas, marches and big band music. The band would like for La Vernia to be their home simply because La Vernia folks love music. Currently the band, nor LV Shoestring Productions, have a place to rehearse or storage space. The Community band, with the consideration of changing their name to La Vernia Community Band, is proposing that the City of La Vernia budgets money for the band, discusses band hall use and plays for La Vernia Community events for free!

## 6. Discussion/Action

### A. Discuss and consider awarding contract for Well #7 on the Calloway property.

Clarence Little, Engineer with Southwest Engineers, came before Council to discuss water well # 7 project. The city received a total of 11 bids and from that you can see that 7 of them are within the estimate that we have done. There is a plus to this, we caught the well diggers not having much work to do and the bad side to this would be they are doing it for a cheaper cost than average. Mr. Littlefield recommended giving the water well project to McKinley, which is a reputable company to drill the well and set the pump. Travis Hobbs construction partnered with Central Texas Water Maintenance, working under the name of Travis Hobbs. Mr. Littlefield recommends doing business with Travis Hobbs. He believes their work has been well and have had no qualms with them. Another project we would recommend updating, since there would be funds left over from the project, would be to add Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) to the well.

**Motion:** Councilman Schott accepts the bid from McKinley for the bid of the water well and Travis Hobbs for the electrical and water line, seconded by Councilman Cormier. **Motion passes 4-0.**

### B. Discuss and consider action on a mid-year budget review for the 2015 – 2016 Fiscal Year to include street maintenance project.

City Administrator reviewed the budget with the council. She advised that the municipal court is doing real well. There were some line items that were bumped up a bit. The utility fund, revenues are doing ok. For the project file we did not have a fund 41 sent when we went out for a bond. This is showing you an expense report of the updates. Sales tax typically sits at 33%, keep in mind were 2 months behind, but we're at 37% which is good.

City Administrator provided the council with a list of 2015-2016 street project chip and seal overlay to include sidewalks on DL Vest. The sheet gave a five year production of what the expenses and revenue are going to be based on M & S Engineering overview. Mayor Gregory stated that the thought process on adding some streets is, when you look at Dry Hollow, Forrest and King St they are getting into poor condition. When you look at the cost for a company to come in your looking at a high cost. The projections could hold true seeing that we just spent the money a couple of years ago on industrial and River Rd. The streets listed on the plan are the highest needs needed at this moment.

Mayor Gregory stated that with all of the children walking in the city I think it's incumbent that we utilize this opportunity. Mayor Gregory made a recommendation to start doing what we are doing that we have been talking about for all of these years and consider adding sidewalks. Sidewalks will be 5' wide and put on school side and a crosswalk to be put on San Antonio Rd and DL Vest to include every bit of it being ADA.

Mayor Gregory also commended the staff on the park for providing a product that our citizens want.

**Motion:** Councilman Schott makes the motion to accept mid-year budget review for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year to include street maintenance project and sidewalks, seconded by Councilwoman Watson. **Motion passes: 4-0.**

**C. Discuss and consider action on a City Personnel Policy.**

Mayor Gregory commented that this has been an 18 month to include all department heads involved. This is a complete rewrite from the previous and has been reviewed by legal.

**Motion:** Councilman Cormier makes a motion to accept the City Personal Policy, seconded by Councilman Doege. **Motion passes: 4-0.**

**D. Discuss and consider entering into a contract with Linebarger for Warrant Collection.**

Chief Ritchey is going to assign patrolman on duty to collect warrants locally. When an updated list is provided by the Court Clerk the duty officer will go out and collect warrants. Door hangers will be made and issued if there is no contact with the warrantee. Given a time period, 30-60 days, the La Vernia Police Department (LVPD) will work with the warrantee and if no communication then Linebarger will step in and take over. If collected by Linebarger they will collect an additional 30% of the warrant. Mayor Gregory stated that this company is very diverse. They have a lot of different fingers in municipal government including tax collections.

Councilman Schott asked, "Does this reflect on their driving record?" City Administrator advised it will be recorded in Omni. Bottom line is we are missing revenue.

Chief Ritchey states they will start with the newest warrants issued and work their way towards the older ones.

City Administrator assured that the software we currently have is compatible and the Court Clerk will be able to work through the system with Linebarger.

**Motion:** Councilman Doege makes the motion to accept Linebarger for Warrant Collection, seconded by Councilwoman Watson. **Motion passes: 4-0**

**7. Ordinances**

**A. Discuss and consider action approving of an ordinance amending the 2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year Budget.**

Moved to May's council meeting.

**B. Discuss and consider action approving an ordinance to change distance for fire hydrants from 300 to 500 ft.**

Public Works Director, Jason Mills, advised the TCEQ rules and regulations is to place a fire hydrant is every 500 ft. In our ordinance it currently states every 300 ft. It's very costly. The City is currently doubling the amount of hydrants that TCEQ requires. This will allow additional ft. between each hydrant. If we can stretch it out to match TCEQ rules and regulations it will bring down the cost of the purchase of fire hydrants.

Councilman Schott asked if this would affect homeowners insurance. Mr. Mills stated it will bring down homeowners insurance.

**Motion:** Councilwoman Watson makes the motion, seconded by Councilman Cormier. **Motion passed: 4-0.**

## 8. Resolutions

### A. Resolution for authorization to assess a collection charge.

**Motion:** Councilman Schott makes a motion to accept a resolution for authorization to assess a collection charge, seconded Councilman Cormier. **Motion passes: 4-0**

### B. Discuss and consider approval of a Resolution to appoint a Trustee to the Canyon Regional Water Authority Board of Trustees to serve a two year term.

**Motion:** Councilman Cormier makes a motion to approve of a resolution to appoint a trustee to the Canyon Regional Water Authority Board of Trustees to serve a two year term, seconded by Councilman Schott. **Motion passes: 4-0**

## 9. Discussion Only

### A. Discussion on Water/Sewer Rates, Operation & Maintenance Fee (O&M) and changing of bill due date.

City Administrator is recommended to change the water service due date to the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of every month.

On the operation & maintenance charge no numbers were discussed. It was discussed during the bond to increase operation and maintenance (O & M) to help pay for the water meters by \$2.00-\$3.00. If the O&M charges are temporarily increased on the water bill, it could help offset the meters.

Mayor Gregory added it will help accelerate the cost of the meters. It would be a temporary cost to recoup. This would be something for Council Members to think about. He added that we want to eliminate that part of the payment for three (3) years.

City Administrator advised this is just a discussion. Since we currently see the rate of bills doubling, we could revisit this topic in two-three months to see overall what the meters are producing revenue wise.

Agreed to bring back the water bill due date back in May hold off on O/M charges for a few months.

### B. Discuss amendment to the garbage contract to include additional commercial weekly pickup option and weekly recycling.

We currently have three major business in need of additional pickup. In the current contract with Progressive we do not have additional pick up. By ordinance we have to set all of this and that why we this request is before the Council. This amendment would not extend the current contract with Progressive, the proposed resolution would only be to get additional pick up at the request of business owners. Not only would we get weekly pick up for the commercial businesses but weekly pick up for residence at an additional rate of \$2.00 per month.

Councilman Schott added that we could possible cut down on what is going to the landfill and it could potentially drop the rates. It was recommended we put this topic on the Cities social media to generate feedback of local citizens and business owners.

### C. Discussion on a potential ordinance for junk vehicles.

This would be best at Council's discretion since the city currently have some vehicles, not a lot, in the city that would fall under the junk vehicle section.

Councilman Schott stated, Homeowners Association (HOA) cannot enforce the streets. Recommended adding, using a street for storage ordinance. He stated it's something that we need since we don't have one. Also to consider is where the vehicles would go if they don't comply and are impounded.

It was recommended to bring the discussion back in May.

**D. Discussion on re-zoning procedures.**

Mayor Gregory stated that there are re-plats which are simple as a staff procedure and then you have the part that goes before Planning & Zoning where you change the property in which the 200 ft. notices go out. Certain cases we can send out 50 and only get 10 letters back which are for the citizens. We will typically get the "no's" back. No further comments were made.

**10. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda**

-Line items 9- A, B, C

-Farmers Market – letter of support from council. Thought of the council, choices are not wide and good for where they can go. Discuss operating in the Park on Saturdays.

-Awarding the water line easement.

-Swearing

-Awarded the \$49K for the PD, which is in the preliminary stages.

**11. Adjourn – Councilman Cormier made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Doege. Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.**



Robert Gregory, Mayor



Brittani Porter, City Secretary

