



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

October 13, 2016
6:30 PM

Members Present: Mayor Gregory, Councilman Cormier, Councilman Doege, Councilwoman Moczygemba & Councilwoman Watson

Members Absent: Councilman Schott

Minutes

1. Call to Order – Mayor Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM and a quorum was present.

2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Texas Pledge- Invocation was given by Mayor Gregory. All in attendance cited the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

3. Citizens to be Heard – Crystal Ramirez and Maura Jones with the La Vernia Youth Advisory Council came to announce the upcoming Fall Festival to be held on October 17, 2016 be held in the La Vernia City Park. They will have games, cake walk, bake sale and pet contest to name a few events that will be held.

Elaine Stephens with the La Vernia Historical Association extended an invitation to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at the site of the Veterans Memorial. County Line community band will be playing patriotic music, refreshments will be available and the American Legion Post 539 will be presenting the colors.

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 September 8th 2016 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. La Vernia Police Department – Reports, Traffic Violations & Arrests; and Number of Occurrences by Offense for the month of September 2016;
- C. Check Register and financial report for the month of September 2016.

MOTION: Councilwoman Watson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Cormier. Motion passes 4-0

5. Presentations, Proclamations & Recognitions

- A. **Presentation to be given by Mayor Robert Gregory to proclaim September 24th, 2016 as La Vernia Volunteer Fire Fighters “Fill the Boot Day.”**

Mayor Gregory read the La Vernia Fire Fighter “Fill the Boot Day” MDA Proclamation to Chief Jason Scheel.

- B. **Presentation to be given by George Jones discussing ESD #1 Annexation Plan**

George Jones, Commissioner with ESD #1 (Emergency Service District) came to make a brief presentation on the proposed annexation. ESD #1 provides fire and rescue to the greater La Vernia area. Two fire departments in the county area ceased their operations, Sutherland Springs and Kicaster Fire Department. After long deliberation and research ESD #1 was asked by the county to go through the process of annexing these two area into our ESD. ESD #1 went through deliberation again, the pros and cons of annexing these two area and long hours of research and they found that it was a win-win situation for all concerned in this endeavor. They receiving petition from both Sutherland Springs and in Kicaster asking for ESD #1 to study and to hold an election which we, ESD #1, decided it was worthy of putting to the people. It was worthy of putting it to the people. On the November ballot everyone will see 4 propositions in La Vernia, 2 for Kicaster and 2 in Sutherland Springs.

Mr. Jones stated what is going to be happening is there is going to be a proposition to annex Kicaster & Sutherland Springs. State Law says this is like a marriage proposal, there has to be an offer and there has to be an acceptance. So all though there is only one answer there is going to be two separate votes. The basic question is; do we allow Kicaster to become part our ESD as well as Sutherland Springs. The folks in those areas have to join, the if the votes in the existing ESD must vote to accept these two areas in the existing service district. It actually takes two affirmative votes in order for this to pass. If one fails, the entire thing fails. ESD #1 has gone through a lot of legal work and deliberation, Mr. Jones stated they found it can benefit the folks in La Vernia as well as the folk in Sutherland Springs and Kicaster. Sutherland Springs and Kicaster will have to pay an additional tax to receive fire and rescue services. The ESD #1 will be sharing their assets they have accrued over the past 7 years. A pro that ESD #1 saw and that they found in their decision making process, they have built up spending \$5 million dollars in their fire and rescue services, consequently because they have a large asset base of tools they can now service these areas without a lot of extra capital being spent without a lot of extra capital being spent.

The goal is to get our fire protection to a point where we have a return on investment for the taxpayers that is greater than what they pay in tax. They are going to build the system where by your insurance premiums go down and the amount that goes down is greater than the amount that you pay in ESD taxes are equal to. Bottom line Mr. Jones stated was that you will have a good fire department.

Mayor Gregory stated that the water has an impact on the IOS rating which is considered an improvement. 40% of the scores are water systems. A Hydrant, main, tank, well, pump goes into the equation and everything like that helps improve the score.

Councilwoman Moczygomba stated thank you for the community aspect that you provide to our community, y'all never say no to anything that we do to provide good fun learning experiences for our community.

C. Presentation to given by Brian Burnside of Connally Memorial discussing County Wide EMS.

Mayor Gregory stated this is going to be postponed until a later date. They are waiting for a consultance report that is due out and would like to go before the Connally Memorial Board prior to coming to our Council

6. Discussion/Action

A. Discuss and consider action on this installation of walking trail lighting in the La Vernia City Park by the La Vernia Parks Foundation

Mr. Stanush provided an informational packet to include a map of the proposed lighting areas. 11 poles on loop 1, 8 poles on loop 2 and 7 on poles loop 3. Loop 3 is proposed, and Mr. Stanush wanted to get Councils opinion whether or not to include Loop 3 into the project or hold off. The lights will sit on a 16" foundation that is in the ground. The lights will run off of a photo cell, dimmers would give the time clock the juice it needs and tell it to turn the lights on and off at the designated times that are chosen.

Mayor Gregory requested literature on the lights in which there was not much to provide. A brochure was provided by Mr. Stanush that was still limited on literature. Approximately 4-6 weeks for delivery, the contractor will go ahead and start preparation

After putting in a couple proposals, G & M Electric was selected for the install on the lighting poles.

Mr. Stanush was asked about warranty information by Councilwoman Watson in which he stated he would verify warranty information to us.

MOTION: Councilman Cormier makes a motion to proceed with the installation, seconded by Councilwoman Moczygemba. Motion passes 4-0.

B. Discuss and consider action on the repair of electrical for the Christmas Tree Lighting and replacement of playground surfacing in the La Vernia City Park by the La Vernia Parks Foundation.

G&M was contracted to repair the electrical which is expected to start within the next 3 weeks. Mulch has been added every year and with all the other additional projects taking place the La Vernia Parks Foundation would also like to replace the mulch in the playground area.

MOTION: No motion

7. Resolution

A. Discuss and consider action on approving a Resolution, R101316-01, to increase the rate of deposits to the Texas Municipal Retirement System by the employees of the City of La Vernia.

This was approved during the budget to increase the retirement from 5% to 6%. This is a resolution just so TMRS can change it on their side. TMRS has been asked to make this change effective January 2017.

MOTION: Councilwoman Moczygemba made a motion to approve Resolution R101316-01, seconded by Councilman Cormier. Motion passes 4-0.

B. Discuss and consider action on approving a Resolution, R10132016-02, in support of County Wide EMS.

Mayor Gregory stated that we do not have any information; this was added as a just in case.

C. Discuss and consider action on approving a Resolution, R10132016-03, to increase City water rates.

Not changing water rates, we are changing garbage rates. We may have to call a special meeting because they are going to tweak our rates a bit. Rates will go into effect in November.

8. Discussion Only

A. Discuss potential creation of Parks Commission – finishing out their projects and then will disassemble. Mayor Gregory stated we need to look at an advisory board to the citizens to get private citizens on there. Have a mixture of P & Z, City Council and citizens. We would need to decide if we just make it local citizen or city and ETJ citizens or do we open it up as a community. Councilwoman Moczygemba suggested having stakeholder, La Vernia Little League, La Vernia Veterans Memorial Foundation. Proposed board that consists of 5-7 members, always want to keep it an odd amount. A draft ordinance of 7 members will be presented at the next council meeting.

B. Water Line – Projected finish date of October 25th with all the tie ins and testing. CEC is reviewing the contract to see if we are in liquidated damages yet since they have gone over their 100 days. They are holding up the street maintenance project.


C. Street Maintenance – Once Wauters is completed with their portion of the project, Clark will come in with the machines and start with chip and sealing.

D. Water Well- Tie in is complete, they still need to concrete around the well, and then electrical will be started. A culvert was installed by the Calloway driveway due to all of the rain. Still on track to be completed by November.

9. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda

- **Special Meeting** – October 25th
- **Junk Vehicles**

10. Adjourn – Councilman Cormier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Doege. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.



Robert Gregory, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brittani Porter, City Secretary