



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

March 9, 2017
6:30 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Mayor Gregory, Mayor Pro-Tem Schott, Councilman Cormier, Councilman Doege & Councilwoman Moczygemba

Members Absent: Councilwoman Watson

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and a quorum was declared.
2. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Texas Pledge** – Invocation was given by Councilwoman Moczygemba. 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 February 9, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. La Vernia Police Department – Reports, Traffic Violations & Arrests; and Number of Occurrences by Offense for the month of February 2017;
- C. Check Register and financial report for the month of February 2017

MOTION: Councilwoman Moczygemba made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Schott. **Motion passes 4-0.**

5. Presentation/Proclamation

A. Presentation on the City of La Vernia becoming a Purple Heart City.

Colonel Mark Castillo, Retired, served 31 years in the military. In 2004 he was injured in Iraq and received a Purple Heart medal. His Great Uncle that fought in WWI also received a purple heart. It's an award received for people trying to kill you and fortunately did not, therefore are awarded this medal. He advised there are those that get killed also receive the medal. Ret. Col. Castillo said he starting thinking, there were a lot of his buddies in the Chapter 1836, the largest Military Purple Heart Chapter, and there are a lot of folks talking to their city's about becoming a Purple Heart City. He stated once the city decides to become a Purple Heart City, you are put into a national database which the Chapter tracks. This means that La Vernia would be one of the cities that honors those who have fought, wounded or killed and have received a Purple Heart. He stated it is kind of an honor to be a Purple Heart City. He stated that Kerrville, Poth, Fair Oaks Ranch and San Antonio are all Purple Heart cities. He stated he spoke with H.R. Grimm and gave him the Mayors information in which he had a conversation with in regards to becoming a Purple Heart city. He advised there is no cost to becoming a Purple Heart City. He will work on getting a plaque done for a ceremony that can be located at city hall or the Veteran's Memorial. When the ceremony is decided, the Chapter Commander will come down, whom is a Purple Heart recipient, with other chapter members and take photos if we would like.

Mayor stated when H.R. Grimm approached him about this and he contacted Ret. Col Castillo and knew it was a no brainer.

At the next meeting we would get the language for the proclamation to move forward in becoming a Purple Heart City.

Councilman Schott asked if TXDOT has approved or would authorize a Purple Heart sign being placed at the entrance to the City and Mr. Castillo stated he has not seen a sign on a highway yet but would be willing to research it.

B. Update from the La Vernia Historical Association on the Veteran's Memorial

Mrs. Elaine Stephens, President of the La Vernia Historical Association, is honored to present the update on the Veteran's Memorial. She stated they operated the Museum two days a month and also by appointment. The La Vernia Veteran board meets at least once a month she stated. Mrs. Stephens welcomed Chairman, Walter Scull, to assist with the update on the Veteran's Memorial. Mr. Scull stated that they are well on their way with the construction, the Memorial will be done in three phases. Phase 1 is the foundation and Patriots Pathway, Phase 2 is the Veteran's Wall, Phase 2A are the Memorial benches and Phase 3 will be the obelisk.

Mr. Scull stated they have plenty of money for Phase I, cement contractor Glenn Mills is providing his time and work for the foundation. Mr. Scull said weather dependent, we hope that in 30 days we will have a pour from Mills Concrete. This will be the biggest construction phase on the Memorial with the exception of the veteran's walls and pre-casting. Fundraising is always an issue, still working on Phase II and Phase III funding dependent. He stated they are hesitant putting in for grants without having phase I complete. Mrs. Stephens stated the La Vernia High School Engineering classes have participated in physical work of the construction of the Memorial. She stated that they gave them an assignment to assist in figuring out some calculations for the points on the star and the number of bricks go inside the star. She stated the students jumped on the challenge and were very excited to participate.

6. Discussion/Action

- A. Discuss and consider action on a variance request at 14101 US Hwy 87 requesting a sign variance for an additional 25 sq. ft. for the proposed 5' x 15' freestanding pole sign at 25 feet overall height which would allow a freestanding pole sign of 75 sq. ft. and a small overhang over the curb of the parking lot.**

Ernest, District Manager for the South and East side of San Antonio. We typically have an 18' pole sign and at this specific location the sign would not be visible and hid from the trees. He stated they are requesting to go higher and have the overall height of the sign at 75 sq. ft. sign.

Mayor Gregory stated that when DQ wanted to update their corporate signage, it measured exactly as their existing signage. There was debate between City Admins do we invoke the 50 ft. because that existing sign that has been there for years is 77 sq. ft. That would have meant to take down the existing pole and signage and replace with complete new signage which did not make sense from an administrative stand point, they are just replacing the sign with a new look. He stated the other aspect of this is do you consider the curb a street or a curb a curb. The way that the ordinance reads is that the sign cannot hang over the street. In this case it would just hang over the curb. Councilman Schott asked if it was one the property line and Mr. Ernest stated yes.

Councilwoman Moczygemba asked if the all of the store signage is 75 sq. ft. and Mr. Ernest advised only certain stores have the larger sq. footage. Councilwoman Moczygemba stated so there are other stores that do have smaller signage and he stated yes. Mayor Gregory said from a curb aspect he said he did not have an issue with that.

MOTION: Councilman Schott makes a motion to accept the variance as request, seconded by Councilman Cormier. **Motion passes 4-0**

- B. Discuss and consider action on awarding Vortex as the splash pad contractor**

MOTION: Councilwoman Moczygemba makes a motion to award Vortex as the splash pad contractor, seconded by Councilman Doege. **Motion passes 4-0.**

7. Ordinances

- A. Discuss and consider approving Ordinance No. 030917-01 to cancel the May 6, 2017 General Election.**

MOTION: Councilwoman Moczygemba made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 030917-01 to cancel the May 6, 2017 General Election.

- B. Discuss and consider approving Ordinance No. 030917-02 to approve a traffic control device with stop sign on San Antonio Street.**

MOTION: Councilman Schott made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 030917-02 to approve a traffic control device with stop sign on San Antonio Street, seconded by Councilman Cormier. **Motion passes: 4-0**

8. Resolutions

- A. Discuss and consider approval of a Resolution to contribute matching funds to the Floresville Electric Light and Power System for the 2016 Summer Youth Program.**

Mayor Gregory stated City Administrator had a great idea to earmark the money for the La Vernia Library. She advised that they will provide story time and mobile maker cart. The mobile maker cart will have an activity in the box such as bracelet making or electronics and the money will go towards these projects. City Administrator stated she called and verified that the money would be staying in the city and she was given verification that it would.

MOTION: Councilwoman Moczygemba made the motion to approve a resolution to contribute matching funds to the Floresville Electric Light and Power System for the 2017 Summer Youth Program and it will go towards the La Vernia Library, seconded by Councilman Schott. **Motion passes 4-0.**

9. Executive Session

- A. The City Council for the City of La Vernia will adjourn into Executive Session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Governmental Code §551.074 (Personnel Matters), to discuss a matter in closed executive session. The topic of discussion is possible amendment(s) to the contract of the City Administrator.**

City Council went into Executive Session at 7:01 PM, under §551.074 (Personal Matters) to discuss a matter in closed executive session. The topic of discussion is possible amendment(s) to the contract of the City Administrator.

- B. Following discussion in Executive Session, the City Council for the City of La Vernia will reconvene in Open Session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, to take any action, if necessary, regarding amendment(s) to the contract of the City Administrator.**

City Council reconvened into open session at 7:27 PM. No action was taken.

10. Items Specific to Future Line Items on the Agenda

- **Special Meeting/Workshop proposed for March 30th**

11. Adjourn – Councilman Cormier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Schott. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.



Robert Gregory, Mayor




Brittan Porter, City Secretary