

Council Meeting
04-28-15

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD BY MORGAN CITY COUNCIL IN REGULAR SCHEDULED OPEN PUBLIC SESSION ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE CITY OFFICE LOCATED AT 90 WEST YOUNG STREET

Present: Mayor, Ray W. Little.

Council Members: Tony London, Jeff Wardell, Shelly Betz, Mike Kendell and Fran Hopkin.

City Staff: Gary Crane, Attorney.

Others present: none

This meeting was called to order by Mayor, Ray W. Little.

The opening ceremony was presented by Tony London.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Fran Hopkin.

Minutes and Warrants

MOTION: Tony London moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting and one set of warrants.

SECOND: Fran Hopkin. Vote: 5 ayes.

Public Hearings

- a. Public Hearing – regarding an amendment to the general plan from Commercial Central to Residential designation for property located at approximately 125 North 300 East.

MOTION: Tony London moved to open the public hearing.

SECOND: Shelly Betz. Vote: 5 ayes.

There were no public present.

MOTION: Tony London moved to close the public hearing.

SECOND: Shelly Betz. Vote: 5 ayes.

Ordinance #15-06

General Plan Amendment

Tony explained this is a request to change the general plan from commercial central to residential. This property is south, or across the street from where Carrigan Motors was located. The Planning Commission has recommended this be approved by the City Council. Tony stated the developer is willing to give 20 feet of property to increase the width of the road.

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MOTION: Tony London moved to adopt Ordinance #15-06, and ordinance amending the general plan from commercial central to residential designation for property located at approximately 125 North 300 East.

SECOND: Jeff Wardell.

Discussion on motion: Shelly stated she would like to have the Planning Commission look at this area and consider changing the general plan back to residential on this side of the street. The commercial businesses are not locating in this area. It is being developed as residential. Tony and Jeff will present this to the Planning Commission. Fran stated he agrees with comments made by Mike and would like to know why it was given a commercial designation. It was stated the plan was for businesses to locate in this area. However, the opposite has happened. Tony stated that over time, the commercial area has changed and this area is not being developed as commercial. It has been changed twice back to residential and it may make sense to change the entire area.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Shelly Betz – aye
Mike Kendell – aye
Jeff Wardell – aye
Tony London – aye
Fran Hopkin - aye

New Business

Resolution #15-09

Water Rates

This item was removed from the agenda.

Resolution #15-10

Municipal Wastewater Planning Program

Fran stated this resolution is considered every year and is required by the State. It is a self-assessment report of the wastewater facility and is required to be adopted by May 1 of each year.

MOTION: Fran Hopkin moved to adopt Resolution #15-10, a resolution approving the 2014 Municipal Wastewater Planning Program.

SECOND: Tony London.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Shelly Betz – aye
Mike Kendell – aye
Jeff Wardell – aye
Tony London – aye
Fran Hopkin - aye

Resolution #15-11
2015 Road Projects – Award Bid

During the work session there was a discrepancy on the paperwork. This item will be tabled until the correct information is available.

MOTION: Jeff Wardell moved to table Resolution #15-11, a resolution awarding the bid to Wilkinson Construction Co., Inc. for the 2015 road projects, in the amount of \$257,632.50.

SECOND: Shelly Betz. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #15-12
Circle Drive Detention Pond – Award Bid

The City has received the bids for the Circle Drive detention pond project. The engineer has recommended the bid be awarded to AAA Excavation, Inc. in the amount of \$29,121.00. This project is being done to help alleviate the flooding problems in this area.

Tony asked if this area will continue to be a grassy area. Jeff stated it will be and there will be a sprinkling system installed. The public works crew will maintain this area once the project is complete.

MOTION: Jeff Wardell moved to adopt Resolution #15-12, a resolution awarding the bid to AAA Excavation, Inc. for the Circle Drive detention pond in the amount of \$29,121.00.

SECOND: Tony London.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Shelly Betz – aye
Mike Kendell – aye
Jeff Wardell – aye
Tony London – aye
Fran Hopkin - aye

Resolution #15-13
Weber River Pathway Reconstruction – Award Bid

The City has received the bids for the Weber River pathway reconstruction project. The engineer has recommended awarding the bid to Wilkinson Construction in the amount of \$45,900. Jeff stated there has been damage to this pathway caused by roots of trees. This will repair the area of damage, the pavement will be removed and a barrier will be installed before new pavement is done. Shelly stated the city insurance carrier has listed this project as a priority due to the liability.

Tony asked if the City is still going to pursue a grant for repairs to the rest of this walkway. Mayor Little stated information is being gathered on the rest of this project and there may be

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the possibility of applying next year for funding. The remaining portion of the walkway is not as damaged as what the project being awarded tonight, and it is less area, so it may be less expense.

MOTION: Tony London moved to adopt Resolution #15-13, a resolution awarding the bid for the Weber River pathway reconstruction project to Wilkinson Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$45,900.

SECOND: Shelly Betz.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Shelly Betz – aye
Mike Kendell – aye
Jeff Wardell – aye
Tony London – aye
Fran Hopkin - aye

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2015-2016 budgets

Mayor Little stated the tentative budgets will be approved at the May 12th meeting, with the final budget being planned for the June 9th meeting.

Shelly stated at Riverside Park there are some problems with the slides. They are obtaining bids for replacements. She asked the members if they want to consider choosing something other than slides as a replacement. There is also some equipment at the Fox Pointe park that needs to be replaced. She will be bringing the quotes and suggestions to the members at the next meeting.

Tony stated due to the tragic death of the animal control officer, there is a vacancy for this position. The County is in the process of looking at this position and there may be changes. He would suggest putting the same amount into the budget for the upcoming year.

Fran stated he will be proposing a 12% increase in sewer rates. He clarified this will be just for the first year and they will then re-evaluate.

Mayor Little reviewed the fund balances for March 2014 to March 2015 for the water, sewer and electric departments. He also reviewed the budgeted amounts to the estimated revenues for these same departments.

Tony asked about the water rate resolution that was tabled from the agenda. Who was proposing this increase? Mayor Little stated Jamie Grandpre had drafted this resolution. Jamie stated his concern was the water department was not meeting the budgeted amount in revenues. This department was operating in the red for a number of years, but has paid off the amount owed to the general fund and is operating with a fund balance of \$122,099 at the end of March. There was some discussion about whether a water rate increase should be considered.

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Mayor Little stated the members need to give their recommendations to the company that made the presentation on the rate study for the electric department. Jeff stated there is a need to do something or within a few years the department will be losing money. Fran stated there seems to be a "disconnect" with the figures that were presented tonight. He feels there should be some work done on why the projections are different than what the budgets sheets are showing. Mayor Little will follow-up on this item and check into the contract with this company and see what has been paid. Mayor Little suggested having a couple of members meet with Paul and Dawn to review the figures that were presented to the actual.

Shelly stated there seemed to be some discrepancy in what is actually being added to the fund balance versus what was presented tonight. Shelly stated the small commercial increases that were being discussed were scary to her. These would be quite huge and the reason they were decreased were due to the businesses complaining about the cost of electricity.

Mayor Little stated he feels there should be a list of projects for each enterprise fund, and then look at the budgets, compared to the fund balances to see what is needed.

Jeff gave the members some information on the costs of trading in a backhoe to upgrade to a newer model. Fran stated he would be willing to meet with Mayor Little and Paul to look at the electrical study.

Mayor Little stated in regards to the request to waive fees for the recreation department - he has some concern about waiving utility fees, he would rather increase the amount of funds given to the program. Attorney Crane stated if they want to waive fees, the members would have to add a budget line item in the general fund to pay for the water and electric expenses charged to recreation.

There was discussion about the possibility of initiating a RAMP tax to be used for the recreation program. It is not known what this tax would produce if implemented. It may not bring in enough money to cover the program. Mayor Little stated he feels what is being proposed is just a "Band-Aid" approach and there needs to be a serious look at finding a better way to fund this program. There was further discussion about the amount of money the City, County and School pay for this program.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Julie A. Bloxham, Recorder

These minutes were approved at the 05-12-15 meeting.