

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG
SCHULENBURG, TX
OCTOBER 2, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, October 2, 2017, at the Council Chambers located at 607 Upton Avenue, Schulenburg, Texas, at 7:00 P.M. The elected officials present included Mayor Otto Kocian, Aldermen Chip Bubela, Wendy Fietsam, Arnold Stoever, Harvey Hercik and Larry Veselka. City Staff present were City Administrator Tami Blaschke-Walker, Chief of Police Troy Brenek, Derek Schwenke, Richard Schneider and Megan Bartos.

Visitors included Lisa Mederos of the Schulenburg Sticker, Reverend JP Kessie, Randy, Jeannie & Allison Mican, James Brossmann, Helen Ohnheiser, Keegan Hudec, Ona Marak, Lisa Meysembourg, Antonio Espinoza Jr., Douglas & Susie Behlen, Howard Wagner, Brian Lux, Dennis Lebeda and Ivan Velasquez.

Under Presentations By Citizens, Jeannie Mican of the Meadow Creek Subdivision, presented a petition signed by the residents to keep the planter. She stated that it is a landmark and a distinction of their neighborhood. It helps keep out truck traffic and slows vehicular traffic. The residents have agreed to upkeep the structure once it is fixed.

Lisa Meysembourg, Superintendent of Schulenburg ISD, publicly thanked the police department, first responders, EMS and the fire department for their quick response to the recent tragedy that happened during school hours.

Items (a) and (b) are Consent Agenda items with no separate discussion unless a Councilmember requests further information.

- (a) City Council will consider and take action on the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 18, 2017.
- (b) City Council will consider and take action on the payment of current bills.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Bubela to accept the Consent Agenda items (a) and (b). The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Bubela made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoever to accept the letter of resignation from the Board of Adjustments member Alvin Langhamer. The motion passed unanimously.

City Administrator Tami Walker presented to Council a worksheet of the current rates versus proposed rerates provided by TML-IEBP Multi State. Alderman Fietsam questioned why the rates were so high. Mrs. Walker's answer was that the retirees have impacted the rates since the insurance is a risk pool. She stated that they all retired pre 60 and then stay on until Medicare covers them. Other cities do not carry retirees or they do for one year after retirement to allow them to shop around for their own insurance.

Alderman Bubela questioned finding a new insurance company. Mrs. Walker stated that it is too late this year but the City will shop around next year. She mentioned that she heard that if we

leave and come back to TML, we drop to the bottom of the totem pole. Her suggestion would be to stay with the current plan and start fresh next year.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hercik to approve the 2017-2018 Rerate for Employer provided Healthcare coverage provided by TML-IEBP Multi-State. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Bubela made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fietsam to approve the administrative agreement for Continuation of Coverage (COBRA) as a member of the TML Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Kocian read the proposed Garbage Ordinance. He had the understanding that raising the rates for the heavy industrial garbage would help with the balancing of the budget. From that last budget workshop until now, a proposed dollar increase on the residential garbage was added. He does not agree with the amendment.

Mrs. Walker stated that she was asked by a Council member to add that dollar to the residential rate. Alderman Veselka stated that Schulenburg is the cheapest rate. We should raise it for the upkeep of the equipment and stay in the black. La Grange who just went through a disaster still raised their rates. They are able to fix things because they have money coming in.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoever to take off the dollar increase on residential garbage and approve the rest of the ordinance as stated. The motion failed with Aldermen Veselka and Stoever voting for and Aldermen Bubela, Fietsam and Hercik voting against.

Alderman Bubela stated that the City should do what it needs to do to stay with the cost of living. We want our town to look good, we should charge for our services. There is no difference between this and a business, it is called inflation. Five years is quite a bit of time to not raise rates.

Mrs. Walker noted that in order to balance the budget as stated at the workshop, these ordinances need to be passed. At the workshop it was stated that the City fell \$150,000 short so we started looking at revenues instead of taking it out of reserves. The numbers presented were based on a fiscal year and we have already missed October 1st billing. We need to get these ordinances passed so we can make changes for the November 1st billing.

It was decided to put the garbage ordinance back on the agenda for the next meeting.

After Mayor Kocian read the water and sewer ordinance, he stated that he did not recall discussing some of the language stated about increasing a dollar per year on residential water. Alderman Fietsam said that it was discussed at the budget workshop and thought it was a general consensus that it was a good idea. Alderman Hercik noted that he was not and still is not in favor of raising rates.

Alderman Veselka noted that it is stated in the ordinance that the automatic increase of a dollar can be stopped at any time. Mayor Kocian said he wanted the language taken out now.

Alderman Fietsam made a motion, seconded by Alderman Bubela to adopt the ordinance as is written to revise and set rates for water and sewer services within the City. The motion passed

with Aldermen Fietsam, Bubela and Veselka voting for and Aldermen Stoever and Hercik voting against.

After Mayor Pro Tem Harvey Hercik read the electric ordinance, there as a clarification by Mrs. Walker that what is presented is exactly what was discussed at budget workshop.

Alderman Bubela made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka to adopt an ordinance revising and resetting rates for electrical service provided by the City. The motion passed with Aldermen Bubela, Veselka and Fietsam voting for and Aldermen Stoever and Hercik voting against.

In regards to the planter in Meadow Creek, Mrs. Walker stated that Mrs. Mican did a poll vote of the neighborhood and according to the petition, the residents want to keep it. In the research done so far, there are no documents at this time that state the streets in Meadow Creek were ever dedicated to the City. However, a claim was issued by the City for the last incident that happened. There is no reason why the City cannot do it again.

Alderman Fietsam questioned Mrs. Mican about the remaining balance of the damage versus what the insurance company pays. Mrs. Mican said the gentleman that hit the planter should be liable for the balance.

Alderman Bubela made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka to file a claim against the insurance company. The motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Court Judge, Alana Wyatt, presented her monthly report.

Chief of Police, Troy Brenek, updated Council on their happenings.

- Thanked Mrs. Meysembourg for her kind words.
- Employees attended the wellness clinic.
- He worked night shifts instead of taking vacation as planned.
- They have been working on an assault of family violence case.
- There are roof leaks that have been found within the building that will eventually need to be fixed.
- Chief will not be at the next council meeting. He is attending training in Corpus Christi. He has not taken this class since coming to Schulenburg.
- The department is working with the school to help get the word out about rerouting traffic.
- They will be assisting with the Halloween traffic at Meadow Creek.
- The department's meet and greet is set for November 15.

Water Department activities included:

- Line locates.
- Ran new 3/4" copper water service to 608 Black St.
- Assisted Electric Department with setting new pole at FM 957 & JA Green St.
- Installed new 8" gate valve at Wolters Ave bridge to replace non working insta valve.
- Repaired 6" water main breaks in 500 block of Black St and 1000 block of James Ave.
- Installed approximately 150 L.F. of new 8" C-900 water main in front of Main Pump House.
- Several members of the water department attended wellness clinic.

- Assisted TCEQ contractor with collecting annual drinking water samples at all three water plant entry points.
- Mercer Construction made 80 L.F. bore at Lyons Ave and Black St. for Black St. Water Project.
- Adjusted PRV's to maintain water pressure on south side.
- Installed three 8x6 anchor tees and three 6" gate valves in front of Main Pump House.
- Saw cut roadway at Simpson St. and Wolters Avenue for new 6" water main, also potholed water main.

Wastewater Department activities included:

- Hauled 1 load of sludge from Babylon Plant.
- Finished Black Street sewer project.
- Attended sewer classes for 3 days at the Fire Station.
- Hauled 2 loads of sludge from Babylon Plant.
- Worked on the pumps at the Contech and County Barn Lift Stations.

Street / Garbage Department activities included:

- Picked up brush.
- Worked on garbage trucks and hauled limbs when customers paid fee.
- Cleaned Warehouse.
- Worked on Kallus St.
- Hauled dirt on Lyons and assisted with Sewer bore.
- Cut tree limbs on North St., Paulus St. and cut trees off overpass.
- Met with Befco for Black St. project.
- Fixed truck on side of road that was broke down due to radiator hose.

Electric Department activities included:

- Read meters, nonpayment disconnects, fix street lights/rent lights, install new meter loop pole.
- Install new disconnect panels, new wires, and new cutouts at the Main Pump House at Wolters Ave.
- Install poles for Frontier under the primary wires at three locations 102 Keuper St., 414 St. John Rd. and 415 Wolf St.
- Up and down for 509 Black and 103 Keuper.
- Helped LCRA load up breakers at the warehouse to take to the substation so they can do the breaker change out.
- Install two 35 ft. poles, one meter loop pole, two anchors, hang transformer and wires at 260 High Hill Rd.
- Outages at 409 West, Schulz, Matula and South St.

Park Department activities included:

- Regular maintenance (mowing, weed eating, clean restrooms)
- Picked up animals and placed in dog pound when needed.
- Mowed East Ave, I10 Underpass and North Main St.
- Sprayed curbing on East Ave and I10 Underpass.
- Fixed 4 leaks at Sports Complex.
- Helped Water Department with new water line at Main Pump House.

- Helped Street Department trim trees.

City Administrator, Tami Blaschke-Walker, reported the following:

September 17th - 22nd On medical leave

September 26th TML mini Health-Fair mobile site for employees

September 27th Attended Lunch and Learn at Blinn College

September 27th - 29th City hosted Waste Water Class at the Fire Station

Additional Comments:

- Gary Eudy transferred to the Sanitation Department.
- Glenn Harden was hired.
- Utility pole at Colonial broke at the top - Techline was called in to assist
- The bore project is taking a little longer than anticipated because of a fiber line and a lot of sand rock. There is only 80' more to go.

Alderman Hercik wanted to know about the timeline for the boring project. Mrs. Walker noted that it should be a few more days depending on the weather.

He also asked that a sign be put up outside the door of the Council Chambers to identify the room.

In accordance under Chapter 551.072, Deliberation Regarding Real Property at 501 FM 2672 the City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

Council came back into regular session at 8:38 p.m.

Alderman Hercik made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoever to take no action and not sell the property the City owns located on FM 2672. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hercik to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.