

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG
SCHULENBURG, TX
JUNE 5, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session Monday, June 5, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at 607 Upton Avenue, Schulenburg, Texas. Elected officials present included Mayor Otto Kocian and Aldermen Chip Bubela, Wendy Fietsam, Arnold Stoeber, Harvey Hercik and Larry Veselka. City Staff present included City Administrator Tami Walker, Candace Berger, Richard Schneider, Chief of Police Troy Brenek, Darryl Moeller, Derek Schwenke, Jason Strickland and Andy Tackett. Visitors included Macy Young, Rita Hercik, Tim and Renee Zeller, James Brossmann, Andy Behlen of the Fayette County Record, Stanley Pesek, John Cardenas, Lisa Mederos of the Schulenburg Sticker, Rodney Gresser, David Kalmus, Dennis Lebeda, Drew Brossmann, Jeff Proske, Dennis Venghaus, Randy Wick, Ivan Velasquez and Tina Bohlmann.

Mayor Kocian called the meeting to order and John Cardenas of the Ministerial Alliance led the group in prayer. The group recited the Pledge.

With no **Presentations by Citizens**, Mayor Kocian asked Mr. Cardenas to give a little background of the Ministerial Alliance. This organization raises resources to assist transients or folks in need with vouchers for food, gas and lodging so they can make it to their destination.

Under **Reports from Standing Committees**, Dennis Venghaus, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, presented their approved application for the Gresser-Zeller Subdivision Re-plat for properties located at 107 Upton and 102 Keuper for the purpose of residential development. Council took no action under the direction of City Attorney Monte Akers who stated it should be listed under the Consent Agenda.

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

- (a) The minutes from the regular meeting held on May 15, 2017 were presented for approval.
- (b) Current bills were presented for approval.

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

Jeff Proske, Chief of the Schulenburg Volunteer Fire Department presented the City Council with their current plans to purchase a new tanker for approximately \$236,000.00 which will replace the 1998 tanker. It will be very similar in style and operation. It will be paid for through county funds collected from property taxes. A short-term note will be taken out for any unpaid portion once the tanker arrives. The Forest Service is currently offering, through a grant, 2 1/2 ton military trucks in working condition to fire departments and first responders plus \$20,000.00 to outfit these trucks. If selected for the grant, you have six months to outfit the truck and repaint it. If Schulenburg is selected for the grant, this truck will become a mini-tanker for the department and the estimated cost to completely accessorize the truck is \$55,000.00. The truck would actually cost the department \$35,000.00 with the funding from the Forest Service. Chief Proske then proposed that the funds from the sale of the 1998 tanker be used to offset the

balance. Should the tanker not bring enough to cover the \$35,000.00, he would extend the short term note to cover it with county funds. The new tanker will carry about 1800 gallons of water - many county bridges cannot handle the excess weight. The new tanker will also help with our S O Rating. Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoever to give the Fire Department permission to sell the 1998 tanker with the stipulation that the tanker remains here until the new tanker arrives - approximately a 12 to 18 months. The motion passed unanimously. The new tanker will be outfitted in Brenham, Texas, at Mac Meyers where they can go check on it as often as they like. The new tanker will also hook up directly to the fire plugs. Mayor Kocian questioned the different colored fire plugs. James Brossmann explained that only in Schulenburg, Texas do we have 4" discharge valves on the fire hydrants. Common size is 4 1/2 inches. For faster response to fires, the valves are color coded so that firefighters know immediately whether or not they need an adapter when connecting to a fire plug for water. He cited there is also a 1892 fire plug still in service. Chief Proske stated that he plans to report to Council every few months with an update on the department's activities.

Stanley Pesek of the Schulenburg KC's presented to the City Council their request for Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds for the Knights of Columbus June State Tournament. The amount requested is \$1995.00 for this tournament. The tournament was not planned for Schulenburg this year but will be held here every year from now on. The funds will be used for field rent, advertising, security, port-a-cans, hotel rooms, player liability insurance, etc. Alderman Hercik made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fietsam to grant the funding to the KC's for this event. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pesek also presented an application for \$6800.00 in Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds for the Knights of Columbus Softball and Co-ed Softball Tournament to be held in conjunction with the Schulenburg Festival. This three day event brings approximately 40 teams and requires about 25 umpires to host. Its expenses will also include field rent, advertising, security, port-a-cans, hotel rooms, player liability insurance, etc. Alderman Hercik made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fietsam to approve the \$6800.00 as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hercik to accept the resignation of Wendy Fietsam from the Planning and Zoning Commission and directly replacing her with David Machac. The motion passed unanimously.

DeeDee Heinrich and Lillie Hoelscher, President and Vice-President of the Schulenburg Literary Club were appointed to fill the vacant positions on the Schulenburg Public Library Board in a motion made by Alderman Stoever and seconded by Alderman Bubela. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hercik to authorize Mrs. Walker to proceed with the process to sell property the city owns on Eilers Street and to proceed with the Option 1 drawing showing the permanent drainage easement the city will retain for maintenance. Mrs. Walker will notify the other taxing entities that have an interest in the property - school, county and ground water district - that we will list the property for sale and their portion of the clean up and will be subtracted from the sale costs. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken by the City Council on the Driscoll property located at 119 Summit Street. It is believed to be in the best interest of all parties involved to let the Appraisal District list it for Sheriff Sale later this year. At this time, the property is not feasible for the city to pursue

ownership or condemnation with the costs involved in locating all of the heirs to the property and the expense for the city to demolish with the asbestos. The expenses exceed the value.

Infrastructure repairs to the 500-600 Blocks of Black Street have been on hold for four years. Currently, the sewer department has \$30,000.00, water department has \$90,000.00 and street department has \$87,000.00 allotted for the work and if started quickly could complete most of the work before Schulenburg Festival. Mayor Kocian stated that he wanted to keep track of charges for both employees and equipment for the project to see if it is cheaper to contract the work or do it in house. Mrs. Walker and crews will discuss the possibility of 4/10 work days during this time. Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Bubela to proceed with the work on the 500-600 Blocks of Black Street using city crews to perform the work. Alderman Bubela, Fietsam and Veselka voted to proceed with the project and Alderman Stoever and Hercik voted against the motion. The motion passed 3 to 2.

No action was taken on the SCT Broadband Agreement and Pole Contacts as requested by Mrs. Walker since no response was received from SCT after the proposed changes to the contract were submitted.

It was the agreement of all City Council members to set a workshop date of June 13th at 5:30 P.M. for orientation and training regarding Municipal Law by the City Attorney. Mrs. Walker also reminded all newly elected officials of the Attorney General requirements that must be met by the 60th day after being elected.

Under Reports from Officers, Municipal Court Judge Alana Wyatt's report was submitted in their packets for review. No questions were asked.

Chief Brenek submitted a department report that showed a total of 6 accidents occurred; 405 calls were received and 52 incidents. Additionally, he reported that he attended the Chief's Conference where much discussion centered on Senate Bill 4 - Sanctuary Cities; in the future, officers will be required to take 40 hr classes on De-escalation; attended a Blue Courage Class that reminded everyone of why they became an officer; working on the Meet and Greet to be held in November and reminded everyone of the Little League Tournament that starts on June 8 at the Sports Complex.

The Water Department Report submitted included line locates, connects and disconnects; meter change outs; changed out 6" foot valve in Ground Storage Tank at Henderson Hill and cleaned and removed probes; read meters; pulled up men's toilet at City Hall for new flooring and reinstalled it; repaired 3" water leak on service line feeding the elementary at SISD; drove garbage truck; attended 2nd Source Water Assessment Protection Meeting (SWAP) and received two complementary signs to be installed at well sites; and attended two conference calls - O'Malley Strand - Ground Storage Tank Rehab Project and SCT Broadband - new contract on renting space on the new tower for internet antenna.

The Wastewater Department Report listed hauled 5 loads of sludge from Babylon Plant; mowed both plants and lift stations; laid 150' of sewer main and made 4 taps, completing Matula project; worked on and rebuilt 4" pump at Sports Complex; and worked at I-10 Lift Station.

The Street/Garbage Department submitted the following: picked up brush when citizens pay the \$25 for removal; hauled containers to Creedmoor and Altair; drove and rode on garbage truck; patched potholes; continued to work on Pierce Street and cut out valley and filled in; trimmed trees off of signs; met with Dairy Farmers of America about them overloading their roll off

containers; cut pecan trees down along Highway 77; repaired old garbage truck including welding in new floor plates and fixed road around Contech.

The Electric Department listed connects and disconnects; meter change outs; read meters; fixed street lights; trimmed tree limbs out of lines; set a pole and anchor at 110 West Avenue to replace the old rotten pole for an overhead guy wire to hold the three phase pole across the street; moved service over from old pole to a new one at 1520 E US HWY 90 and installed a new meter; hung a transformer, set a meter loop pole and ran service wire at 1203 Pierce for a manufactured home; set pole by 520 and 512 North Street to replace a leaning service pole and is also an overhead guy wire for the three phase pole across the street; replaced light bulbs and light sockets at Wolters Park for graduation; installed new meter base at 103 Keuper for Zion Lutheran Church; removed service going to 210 South Street for Leon's to install a new meter loop on the house and installed a new service going to the house; set a pole in front of 714 Baumgarten to replace a rotten pole and is also an overhead guy for the three phase pole across the street; set a pole, hung transformer and metering set at St. John Church for more power for the a/c units being installed; worked at Chuck Brown Ford replacing a transformer that lightening hit.

The Park Department performed regular maintenance (mowing, weed eating, clean restrooms); picked up animals and placed in dog pound when needed; preparing for boys Wings Tournament on Friday and Saturday; preparing for 9 & 10 year old boys Little League Tournament starting Tuesday and continues for two weeks; and prepared Wolters Park for Memorial Day Service and graduation.

Mrs. Walker's Administrative Report included attending an SEDC meeting on 5/16; MASA conducted a meeting with City Employees on 5/17; Conference call with SCT Broadband including Derek Schwenke and Clarence Ahlschlager to discuss concerns on 5/18; Little League Tournament Meeting on 5/21; attended the funeral of Johnny Fowlkes on 5/23; meeting at the warehouse with Mayor Kocian and Alderman Bubela on Wednesday 5/24; meeting at the office with Mayor Kocian and Alderman Bubela on 5/25; closed on 5/29 for Memorial Day Holiday; power outage and conference call with Zac Evans related to properties in Schulenburg at 119 Summit Street on 5/30; pool officially opened on 6/1; floors complete at City Hall; new computers installed at City Hall workstations; reminder of training for the newly elected officials; summer help hired; and vacation 6/28 to 7/3.

On Wednesday, June 7th, city crews will remove the tree at the entrance to the Meadow Creek Subdivision at 8 A.M.

The City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:29 P.M. to discuss Government Code Section 551.074 Personnel Matters to deliberate the duties of the City Council members and Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.072 Consultation with City Attorney and Deliberation regarding real property in relation to conveyance of an easement.

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg reconvened into regular session at 10:01 P.M. with Mayor Kocian reporting that no action was taken on the matters discussed in Executive Session. Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hercik to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.