

REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011
6:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Anahuac City Council was held in the Council Chambers of Anahuac City Hall located at 501 Miller Street, Anahuac, Texas on Monday, February 14, 2011 at the above noted time.

There were present:

Sue Hawthorne
Cheryl Sanders
Linda Palmer
Danny Thompson
Kimberly Upston
Richard Baker
Dan Irby

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilwoman
Councilman
City Secretary
City Attorney
Public Works Director

Those not present:

Dana Evans

Councilwoman

Guests:

Dayna Haynes
Paul Feazelle
Monroe Kreuzer, Jr.
Chris Hill
Scott Wible
Rick Bourque
David Brown

The Progress
Texas First Group
Citizen
Citizen
Employee
Schaumburg & Polk
Citizen

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Hawthorne called the meeting to order. Mayor Hawthorne led the invocation and Councilwoman Palmer led the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Mayor Hawthorne then called on Monroe Kreuzer Jr. to speak. Mr. Kreuzer spoke about the water being provided to the City, the water availability to fight fires, the last inspections on the fire hydrants, the insurance rates that are currently in effect and the ISO ratings of the City.

Bobby Doyle then spoke about the need for a street light placed at his home at 2909 S. Main. Dan Irby stated he did drive down the street at night and there is approximately half a mile between Mr. Doyle's house and the last street light. He said that Entergy would charge us for the installation of the light and for the electricity of the light. Councilman Thompson made a motion to place a street light at 2909 S. Main. Councilwoman Sanders seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Discussion moved to the water billing, water usage, and meter readings at Gator Town at 400 Miller Street. David Brown, the owner of 400 Miller Street, was on hand to explain. He had a question on the water usage on his January 2011 billing. He explained that his bill showed him using 12,000 gallons of water in one month but, the previous three months it showed no usage. He stated he felt that the usage from all three months was combined in the 12,000 gallons and that the account should be credited for three months worth of minimum usage. Dan Irby explained that he has spoken to Mr. Brown several times about the readings and the usage.

Kimberly Upston then explained the minimum bill is from zero to 2,000 gallons of water. She then explained that the first month when Mr. Brown's meter showed no usage a re-read was done on the meter and it showed to be correct. The next two billing cycles no re-reads were done but, when the meters were read for the January bill there showed to be 12,000 gallons of water used. A re-read was done on the meter and a field test on the meter was also performed. She said the re-read and the test came back correct.

Mr. Brown said on his current bill the reading was 92 and three days later it was 100. He said there has to be a problem with the meter or that his meter was not being read. He asked Council for an adjustment to the bill.

Councilwoman Sanders asked if the meter was read for one month and not the other months. Ms. Upston said the read sheets stated that it was read and it is signed by the employee that read

the meter. Mayor Hawthorne asked when the meter was read for the billing cycle. Ms. Upston said the meters are read around the middle of the month for the next billing cycle.

Dan Irby said the meter at the location does need to be replaced. Councilwoman Palmer asked to have the exact read dates. Mr. Brown said the meter was not read for those months because of the big discrepancies in the reads on the billings. Councilwoman Palmer also asked that the staff get averages for the past year and give them to Council.

Council agreed that more information is needed to make a decision and no action was taken on the item.

Discussion moved to an invitation to fund CWSRF projects from the Texas Water Development Board. Rick Bourque from Schaumburg & Polk was on hand to explain. He said that it would start with filing an intended use plan. He said the agency would then take all of the projects and rank them in order of need.

Mr. Bourque stated that if the Council decided not to act on the invitation it would not hurt the City's chances receiving monies in the future. He said in his opinion the City is not ready to take on the burden of the loan but, he would check with Bill Blitch the City's financial advisor.

After discussion, the Council decided not to take action on this item.

Mayor Hawthorne moved discussion to the water treatment plant. Rick Bourque explained that the City has funds from the Texas Water Development Board to take care of some lines and the rest of the money was to be used for the water treatment plant. He said when the project started it was intended to be used to make a new water reservoir.

He explained the current plant and what equipment is in use at the plant. He then explained about the project that the Texas Water Development Board was currently funding and what the project started out to be and what it is now.

Mayor Hawthorne said that one of the questions was last summer when the gear box went out on the plant, why wasn't it replaced and the plant still in operation instead of taking the plant out of operation. Rick Bourque said it was an operational decision. He said the plant needed to be brought down for the construction so the choice was made to leave it down and the gear box was repaired. He said that it would be up approximately six months then we would need to bring it down again.

Mayor Hawthorne then asked if the plant could be brought back up and running. Dan Irby said it could be brought back up but, we would still be fined from TCEQ when they ran tests for the turbidity issues. Mr. Bourque agreed.

Monroe Kreuzer asked how long it would take to change out the filters and put the plant back into operation. Mr. Bourque said it would be sometime in October before the plant would be back in operation doing the projects that are currently in line to be done.

Mayor Hawthorne asked how much money we have left on the loan. Mr. Bourque said about \$670,000. Councilwoman Palmer said to bring up the plant it will take to October but, that will not fix the water issues that citizens have because of the old pipes that are still in use. Mr. Bourque said she was correct this project will not replace any pipes throughout the City.

Councilwoman Palmer said she believes that we need to start from the pipes up because fixing the plant will not alleviate the "red water" situation that many of the citizens are faced with.

Mr. Kreuzer asked Mr. Bourque how many old lines are still in use in the City. He also said lines have been replaced but, the old lines are still in use and at some places they are ran beside the new lines. Mr. Bourque said some of the lines have been taken out of service but, the old lines are sometimes not on maps and the old lines are killed at the time of a project. He also said on the old maps the cross over's and connections might not all be noted.

Councilman Thompson asked if they would accept a closer piece of land for the water reservoir than the one that is currently slated for this purpose. Mr. Bourque said the distance wasn't an issue that it was a funding issue and we really did not need a reservoir when there were emergency tie ins already in place. Mayor Hawthorne said the new water tower will also help with the issue of an emergency situation by providing more storage.

Discussion moved to hiring Texas First Group to provide an Interim City Administrator. Mayor Hawthorne said Paul Feazle was the candidate that Texas First Group had provided and he was present to answer any questions. She said Mr. Feazle had met with her and staff and she did speak to him about what the City would expect out of an Interim City Administrator. She said his first day would be the following Tuesday and all that week but, after that he would maybe be in the office three or so days a week. She said we are currently advertising for a permanent person and staff feels the need to have someone in place.

Mr. Feazle then told Council about his professional background. Mr. Baker had many questions and concerns about the contract. Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to hire Texas First Group on the condition that the amendments from our attorney are approved. Councilwoman Sanders seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

The renewal of the contract with Wave Computers for web hosting and e-mail hosting services was then discussed. Mayor Hawthorne said the City has been with Wave Computers for quite sometime. Kimberly Upston said she hasn't had a problem with them and they are very helpful. She also said the City does not get billed monthly for the services. She said the only bills she receives are from when work is done on the computer system or computers themselves.

The Council had many questions about the website domain name. It was then discussed that Brandon Luquette was the current name on the certificate but, it could be changed to the next City Administrator.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the contract with Wave Computers for web hosting and e-mail hosting services. Councilwoman Sanders seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 10, 2011 and the Special Meeting/Workshop held on January 24, 2011 were discussed. With no corrections to be made, Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Accounts payable was discussed next. Councilman Thompson asked how much longer the City had on the contract with Munro's Uniform Service. Kimberly Upston replied two years and the City would have to pay fees for each month that the contract has left if it was cancelled. There was discussion about who signed the contract and who is authorized to enter the City into contracts. Ms. Upston stated that staff had changed the amount billed to the minimum to try to save money.

After several other invoices were discussed, Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to approve accounts payable. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Discussion moved to the Bookkeepers Report from December 2010. Councilwoman Sanders asked about the Council Expense line item. Kimberly Upston stated she had cut the checks for the January meeting in December and that is the reason for the double charge to the line item in one month. The quarterly investment report was also discussed.

Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to approve the Bookkeeper's Report from December 2010 and the quarterly investment report. Councilwoman Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

The next item, the amendment of the surplus items list and the minimum bids that will be received on the remaining items, was pulled from the agenda by Councilman Thompson. Councilman Thompson had placed the item on the agenda.

The Order of General Election for the City of Anahuac, Texas on May 14, 2011 was discussed. Councilwoman Sanders asked if the order needed to be in both English and Spanish. Kimberly Upston said the Secretary of State mandates that all election material be posted in both languages.

Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to approve the Order of General Election for the City of Anahuac, Texas on May 14, 2011. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Ordinance 2011-02-01; an ordinance of the City of Anahuac, Texas providing for the holding of a general election on May 14, 2011, for the purpose of electing four (4) Council Members; and providing details relating to the holding of such election; finding compliance with the open meetings law; and providing a severability clause was discussed. Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to approve Ordinance 2011-02-01. Councilwoman Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Discussion moved to the removal of Mary Chambers from the City of Anahuac's bank accounts as of February 18, 2011. Councilwoman Sanders made a motion. Councilwoman Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

The travel request for John Wright to attend TCEQ Surface Water Production II Class held in Baytown, Texas on April 5, 2011 was discussed. Mayor Hawthorne asked Dan Irby if this class was to maintain a license or to get a new license. Mr. Irby said it was to get a new water license. Meals will also be included in the request. The travel requests of Scott Wible to attend a TCEQ Water Distribution class held in Pearland, Texas on April 12, 2011 and to attend a TCEQ Water Laboratory class held in Baytown, Texas on May 3, 2011 was discussed also.


Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve all travel requests from Mr. Wright and Mr. Wible as stated. Councilwoman Palmer seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

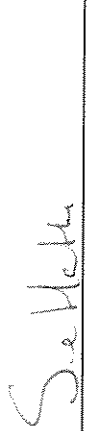
The closed session items were not discussed at this meeting. The items will be placed on a later agenda.

The reports enclosed in the packets were discussed. It was decided to set a Special Meeting/Workshop on February 28th. Kimberly Upston said she would send an e-mail to all of Council about the meeting.

With no other business at hand there was a motion made by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Thompson to adjourn. All in favor and motion carried.

At 8:11 p.m. the Regular Meeting of the City of Anahuac City Council was adjourned.


Kimberly Upston, City Secretary
City of Anahuac


Sue Hawthorne, Mayor
City of Anahuac