

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING

KERRVILLE, TEXAS  
APRIL 10, 2012

On April 10, 2012, the Kerrville City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Wampler at 6:00 p.m. in the city hall council chambers, 800 Junction Highway. The invocation was offered by Stockton Williams, Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Boy Scouts of America.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

David Wampler	Mayor
Gene Allen	Mayor Pro Tem
Carson Conklin	Councilmember
T. Scott Gross	Councilmember
Stacie Keeble	Councilmember

COUNCILMEMBER ABSENT: None

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Parton	City Manager
Mike Hayes	City Attorney
Brenda G. Craig	City Secretary
Kristine Ondrias	Assistant City Manager
Travis Cochran	Director of Information Technology
Mike Erwin	Director of Finance
Charlie Hastings	Director of Public Works
Robert Ojeda	Fire Chief
Kim Meismer	Director of General Operations
Daniel Schwartz	Library Director

VISITORS PRESENT: List is on file in city secretary's office for the required retention period.

**1. VISITORS/CITIZENS FORUM:**

1. Ann Marshall stated she was a regular user of the library and it distressed her that the books stored in the basement would not be available to check out.

Mr. Parton noted if a patron requested a book that was in the basement, staff would locate the book and hold it for them.

2. Ann Morris Cockrell stated she was a former school teacher and a volunteer for the adult family literacy program in Ingram; she asked that the city reconsider shelving the books that were in the basement. She asked if the city was going to remove the Bible because it was an old book. It was not possible to preview E-books to determine if you wanted to read a book.

3. Ben Doerries attended the library grand reopening; the library was beautiful, but there were no books. He received conflicting information about the fate of the books in the library. The city's fact sheet provided different information than what he had heard. If the problem with shelving books was lack of manpower, he had organized a group of volunteers to help get the books out of the basement and upstairs on to shelves; he invited others to meet Thursday at the library to work. He heard that one criteria for removing books was if it had not been checked out in five years; he agreed for fiction books, but reference books should remain for research; the internet was reliable and popular, but could not replace older books with wisdom.

4. Karen West noted that the main level was mainly computers, and the books, particularly the large print books, were on the second level; the stairs were undoable and the elevator was very slow, so the books that were there were inaccessible.

Mayor Wampler stated that staff would assist all customers to get the books they desired, and look into the concerns raised and attempt to resolve all issues.

5. Alice Brook stated that volunteers should not have to put books on the shelves; she asked who made the decision not to have books available.

6. Kaye Lenox stated that she represented the major donor during the library renovation process and she appreciated city staff's attitude and all departments working together throughout the project. Architect Peter Lewis and city staff took a vision and created a wonderful library facility, and made it affordable to build. She thanked all of those who donated to the project, and noted the Friends of the Library contributed time, effort, and money. Ms. Lenox noted the criteria being used of five years was extremely conservative; the San Antonio Library used three years to weed out unused books. Books that had not been checked out in five years took up space that would be needed for the new books the city had ordered. Regarding the reference collection, of all books, those were the least useable because it was easier to find current, accurate information on the internet. Also, if a book or material was not available at the library, staff could assist patrons in accessing it through the InterLibrary Loan system, and have it available within a few days. Ms. Lenox noted that digital libraries were increasing; the San Antonio Library was 65% books and 35% digital. She noted 500 new library cardholders on opening day and the door count had doubled in one week, and the city's technical check out program was beyond best practices.

7. Ron Holten stated he moved to Kerrville three years ago and one main reason was the library; there was a lot of unused space and he wanted the books back.

8. Brice (?) suggested that the city donate discarded books to the schools.

9. Traci Carlson stated she enjoyed the event. She noted all the things that kids

and families could do together and everyone who attended had great day. She was an avid reader and loved e-books. She commended staff and council for considering all ages and how to serve all people.

Mayor Wampler noted the books were donated to the Friends of the Library and sold to the public; funds were then given by the Friends to support the library.

Council also discussed the following:

- Thanked Charles Butt and Kaye Lenox for making the library renovation possible.
- The grand reopening was a fantastic event that was well attended by families, young people, and adults.
- The city planned a new library not a rebuild of an old library; the city created the library of the future.
- Books that were being culled were damaged; some titles would be reordered and some would be replaced with new titles.
- More than half of the books sold today are electronic books.
- Six years ago the library budget was \$1 million; today the budget was under \$700,000, which included \$500,000 from city taxpayers, and \$200,000 from a grant given to the county for the library. The county commissioners informed the city that the library was irrelevant and county residents did not want to use or pay for library services. All citizens of the county deserved a good library, and if the county contributed toward the library, more books could be purchased and services offered.
- City staff had been verbally abused by some people; that was unacceptable.
- The library had to accommodate a large range of people and ages, as well as technology changes.
- The library staff did a phenomenal job of accommodating the public in a smaller facility for almost half a year, and worked diligently carrying boxes of books back and forth from the history center to the library and from the basement to the first and second level of the library.

Mr. Parton noted the library was originally constructed in 1967. The renovation project resulted in a 15% increase in interior floor space, and expanded the area for youth and technology services; provided wireless access throughout the campus, inside and outside; included upgraded parking and playground areas; and provided more administrative area for operations, reading spaces, and community rooms. He noted 29,000 materials were currently shelved and staff continued to restock books from the basement as quickly as possible (would total 35,000-40,000 when completed), books were being returned from patrons through the Basket of Books promotion, and the collection was expanding with new books arriving and being catalogued daily. Staff had been shelving books for several days since the reopening, and the shelves were pretty full. When completed, he estimated the library would have 50,000 printed books in addition to the electronic books. Also, if a customer wanted a book that was not available, staff would locate it through the InterLibrary Loan program within two

days. The city received grants to purchase iPads, Kindles, and electronic readers, and these were available for customers to checkout.

Mr. Parton noted the city would continue the annual review process for removing books based on professional library science guidelines, i.e. books that were damaged or outdated, or had not been in circulation for five years and those books would be given to the Friends for their book sale. The city's objective was to create a library that was relevant and met the needs of the community; 20% of reading by Americans was through digital formats, and the city would support and expand these library services. He estimated when the project was completed, customers would have access to 70,000-75,000 books.

Mayor Wampler noted the library was in transition and was not 100% complete. He welcomed the public's comments and passion for the library, and volunteer assistance was appreciated. The library was a fundamental service of the city and the city wanted to make it the best library it could be.

10. David Robertson requested the city improve visibility of street markings, particularly arrows in parking lots, traffic lanes, turning lanes, and white stripes.

## **2. PRESENTATION:**

2A. Proclamation for Alamo Area Council Boy Scouts of America 100 Year Centennial Celebration.

2B. Proclamation proclaiming April 29, 2012 as "Ray Price Day".

2C. Proclamation recognizing "Foursquare Day 2012".

2D. Resolution of Commendation to Brett McDowell for service on the Main Street Advisory Board.

2E. Resolution of Commendation to Dana Cardwell for service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

2F. Recognition and appreciation of the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library staff for their professionalism and invaluable service to the community especially in their efforts in completing the major library renovations.

Mr. Parton noted the library staff had moved the entire library collection three times. The Basket of Books program resulted in 25% of the collection being loaned out to customers. Staff completed the opening of the new facility in conjunction with two events. 3,200 people went through the library on opening day, and there was a 10% increase in the number of library cards issued. During the remodeling process, the level of customer service never declined even though library employees were assigned to other positions throughout the city. Staff maintained a positive attitude and sustained commitment toward their job and the library.

## **3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

Ms. Keeble requested items 3E and 3F be removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Conklin moved for approval of item 3A – 3D; Ms. Keeble seconded the motion and it passed 5-0:

3A. Minutes of the regular city council meeting held February 14, 2012, and the informal social meeting held February 23, 2012.

3B. Radio communications memorandum of understanding with Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission and the Kerrville Police Department.

3C. Resolution No. 09-2012 ratifying the appointment of an election judge for the municipal general election to be held May 12, 2012.

3D. Resolution No. 10-2012 authorizing participation in TexasTERM, local government investment pool and designating authorized representatives.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

3E. Execute a professional services agreement with LNV, Inc. to provide design and construction administration services for the G Street wastewater interceptor in an amount not to exceed \$209,500.00.

Ms. Ondrias noted projects 3E and 3F were in the water and wastewater master plan. This project would allow the line to gravity flow wastewater to the proposed Birkdale lift station.

3F. Execute a professional services agreement with Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc. to provide design services for the Riverhill/Ridgewood storage tank transmission line in an amount not to exceed \$129,450.00.

Ms. Ondrias noted this project would construct a 16" transmission line and expand water service to the Highway 173 area allowing for additional economic development and increased fire flow.

Mr. Conklin moved for approval of 3E and 3F; Ms. Keeble seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

**4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

4A. Interlocal service agreement between Kerr Emergency 9-1-1 Network and the City of Kerrville regarding addressing property within the city.

Mr. Parton noted the network notified the city that they were terminating the existing interlocal agreement due to concerns about the process for assigning and changing addresses in the city. Staff from both entities met and drafted a new interlocal agreement that addressed these concerns. The new agreement designated the responsibility for establishing and changing addresses to 9-1-1, and the city had responsibility for enforcement to ensure that official addresses were implemented. The city would enforce addressing through the platting process and city code would require owners to post their address. The agreement would: provide for a public hearing and petition process for large properties; invite the development review committee to participate in the addressing plan; and provide copies of all plats to 9-1-1 for evaluation. He noted that assigning, implementing, and enforcing official addresses was a public safety issue. He requested direction from council to finalize the draft agreement and present it to both entities for consideration; final adoption by the city council would be scheduled for April 24.

Bill Amerine, Kerr Emergency 9-1-1 director, agreed with Mr. Parton's statements and stated he would present the draft agreement to the board for consideration. Although the current agreement was cancelled, 9-1-1 would continue to do addressing in coordination with the city until a new agreement was in place.

The consensus of the council was to proceed as requested by Mr. Parton.

4B. Proposal by Playhouse 2000 to conduct a free production of Shakespeare in the Park, tentatively scheduled for June 1-3, 2012, at Louise Hays Park.

Mr. Parton noted that Playhouse 2000 proposed to hold a free Shakespeare in the Park community production in Louise Hays Park and requested the city provide financial contribution, not to exceed \$5,500; in kind services, estimated at \$2,500; and the use of Louise Hays Park without charge.

The consensus of council was to approve the request as presented and instruct staff to draft an agreement stating the responsibilities of both parties, including a marketing plan.

4C. Establishing a road hump program and adopting a road hump policy on city residential streets.

Ms. Keeble stated that city residents, particularly along Riverhill Boulevard, advised of vehicles speeding and running stop signs and requested installation of road humps. She presented a road hump policy for residential streets as drafted by city staff. She noted that under the policy, a large number of impacted property owners could petition the city to request road humps in their area, and pay the cost of installation. The policy provided for an annual review and city financial participation based on public safety factors. She proposed Riverhill Boulevard as a pilot location.

Chief Ojeda noted that fire/EMS vehicles only used Riverhill Boulevard if they had an emergency in that subdivision or a call south of Camp Meeting Creek; otherwise, calls were made via the intersection at Highway 16. He would oppose the use of humps on primary response streets; however, Riverhill Boulevard was not a primary response street. He cautioned that each street be considered on a case by case basis and noted road humps would impact response times in an emergency and could be traumatic for patients in an ambulance.

The following persons spoke:

1. John Brown noted he moved to Riverhill Boulevard June 2011 and was not aware of the heavy traffic count, noise, and trucks cutting through from Hwy. 16 to Hwy. 173 at 5 a.m. Signs were posted on Riverhill stating 7,000 pounds gross weight, but it had 18 wheelers, pickups pulling trailers, construction equipment, farm equipment, animal trailers, etc. Mr. Brown opined that speed humps would curb speeding and cut through traffic. If speed humps could not be installed, he requested signage prohibiting truck traffic between 16 & 27.

2. Hilton Farris urged council to adopt the road hump policy. Riverhill Boulevard needed impediments for traffic control for public safety, and Riverhill should not be designated as a collector road. He noted that Riverhill had stops signs but they were ignored and police could not be there all the time. He opined that road humps would be more effective and could be removed later if undesired.

3. Rhonda Rideout, representing the Riverhill Homeowners Association, said it was a public safety issue, particularly with school kids speeding.

4. Robert Keeble noted the policy would be responsive to the needs of citizens; traffic was significant on Riverhill Boulevard and created a dangerous situation with speeding at 30-45 mph; public safety was a fundamental service of the city.

Mayor Wampler questioned if everyone in the audience had read and understood the proposed policy, and they acknowledged they had.

Mr. Parton noted Riverhill Boulevard was designated a collector street, and the proposed policy provided for a specific process to amend the thoroughfare plan, including an engineering analysis.

Chief Ojeda noted that prefab street cushions would be a better alternative than asphalt humps as they had less impact on emergency vehicles and required less maintenance. Mr. Parton estimated the cost at \$10,000 each for set up, installation and maintenance; to be effective, he proposed 3-4 humps for Riverhill Boulevard. He also noted that if the city did not have the funds designated for participation in any given budget year, the application would remain qualified for three years; however, the neighborhood had the option of providing the full payment and having it installed without city participation. In the event the city accepted funds from a neighborhood, and did not budget installation within the three year period, the funds would be returned.

Council also discussed the following:

- The policy required 2/3 signatures on a petition; who could sign a petition? Mr. Parton noted 2/3 of the people in the impact area; the city engineer would identify the impact area, for example, the area may not include an entire subdivision, or it could include multiple neighborhoods; each request would be reviewed on a case by case basis.

- How would payment be collected for the cost of installation? Mr. Parton stated the city would not be concerned with the source of non-city funding; however, installation of the humps would not begin until all funds were received.

Ms. Keeble moved to establish a road hump program and adopt the road hump policy on city residential streets that was open enough to meet the city attorney's concerns and to adopt the materials used with bias toward fabricated road humps; Mr. Gross seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

4D. Establish a regular city council work session to be held prior to each regular city council meeting.

Councilmember Conklin proposed scheduling workshops prior to regular meetings to allow the council to review agenda items with staff before the regular meeting. Staff could present basic information and council could ask staff questions, but not have any debate or discussion. This process would allow all members to receive the same information at the same time with consistency. He suggested the time 5:15-5:45; attendance of councilmembers would be optional; proper notice would be posted; and the public could attend, but no public discussion or comment would be allowed. He felt this process would be more effective use of time.

Mr. Hayes noted this process would be permissible, provided the workshops were properly posted, and council limited dialogue to asking questions of staff and receiving information; however, the council meeting rules and procedures would have to be amended.

No action was taken by the city council.

**5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

5A. Report regarding Sign Regulations, Chapter 6, Article II of the City Code.

Mr. Hayes noted the moratorium on electronic and travelling message signs would expire May 14. He reported staff was reviewing the changes from the sign committee and meetings were being scheduled with the committee and stakeholders to review the draft ordinance.

5B. Water resources report.

Mr. Hastings reported some improvement, but the city was still in extreme drought condition according to the US Drought Monitor. It would take over 6" of rain in a 3 month period to end the drought. The river had begun to recover after recent light rains, but the trees were starting to use water; the current river flow was at 44 cfs. The ASR was at 740 mg and staff was injecting as much water as possible. The long term model showed the drought would end in the fall of 2012.

5C. Budget and economic update.

Mr. Erwin reported sales tax was up 9.6% from March 2011. The general fund and the water/sewer fund revenue exceeded expenditures. He noted that according to Experian the city paid its bills more timely than 99% of businesses.

**6. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: None.**

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST:**

- Jason Lutz was introduced as the city's new senior planner.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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David Wampler, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda G. Craig, City Secretary