

MEETING MINUTES
City Council, City Of Quitman
Thursday, October 18, 2012 – 7:00 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall – 401 E. Goode Street, Quitman, TX

COUNCIL PRESENT: Jerry Edwards, Mayor; J.R. Evans, Mayor Pro-Tem; Toni Cole, Alderman; Larry Crow, Alderman; Sam Lange, Alderman; and Randy Dunn, Alderman

STAFF PRESENT: Delene Allen, Civic Services Director; Meri Joy Brightwell, Assistant City Secretary; Kelly Cole, Police Chief; Dee Gilbreath, Utilities Director; Mike Hall, City Secretary / Administrator; Walter Lutonsky, Streets & Maint Director; Scott Wheeler, Fire Chief; and Jim McLeroy, City Attorney.

***Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
Edwards lead an invocation the pledge.***

At 7:01 PM, without objection Edwards convened a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment on a zoning change request on 823 E. Goode – Lot 2 Block 55, Quitman Townsites from R1-B (Residential) to B2 (Business)

Karen Utterback was present to comment on the property stating that the bordering properties were owned by the Wood County Hospital District and she had been advised to have the property rezoned to be better able to sell it.

Marion Stansberry, Executive Secretary, with the Wood County Hospital District was present to state that the district supports the zoning change.

At 7:03 PM, without objection Edwards closed the public hearing.

Item 2 – Citizen Comments (COMMENT ONLY)

Sam Lange shared that he had been diagnosed with a curable form of cancer and would continue to serve as Alderman to the best of his ability during his treatment.

Chana Willis, Executive Director with the Wood County Industrial Commission, presented information on sales tax and economic development.

Without objection, Edwards took Items 3 & 4 together.

Item 3 – September 20, 2012 City Council Meeting Minutes

Item 4 – September 21, 2012 City Council Meeting Minutes

Crow made a motion to approve the minutes, Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5 – September Financial Report

Evans made a motion to approve the report, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6 – September Budget Report

Crow made a motion to approve the report, Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 7 – September Departmental Reports

Hall mentioned the City had begun sending information to the Acker for the fiscal year ending 2012 financial audit. Wheeler noted that although there had been no confirmation yet on the grant approval for the aerial truck, they had been instructed to prepare specifications. He said this was a good sign of being approved.

Crow made a motion to approve the reports, Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 8 – Designation of Speed Limits within City Limits

Edwards introduced the Ordinance and recommended approval stating that lowering the speed limits was an effort to keep the neighborhoods safe, not to create revenue for the city. There was general discussion concerning signage and enforcement of the new speed limits with consensus that the primary intent and focus was driver awareness.

Crow made a motion to approve the ordinance, Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9 – Amendment to Depositing of Garbage / Trash Ordinance to Allow Placement of Handbills

Edwards introduced the ordinance explaining this provided for business promotion by allowing owners to place advertisements on vehicles and in doors. He also noted there were potentially some concerns about the legality of regulating handbills from a free speech concern. There was general discussion about the liability of the City in allowing the placement of handbills, McLeroy assured the Council the City held no liability for allowing such. Cole went on record to say she did not like handbills and considered them to specifically be trash.

Crow made a motion to approve the ordinance, Lange seconded the motion. The motion failed with Crow voting for and Cole, Evans, Dunn, and Lange voting against.

Item 10 – Zoning Change – 823 E. Goode – Lot 2 Block 55, Quitman Townsites from R1-B (Residential) to B2 Business)

Edwards introduced the item noting approval of the Ordinance would approve the zoning change. Evans expressed concern noting the open nature of B-2 Zoning and lack of specific indication or intent for the purpose of the rezoning.

Cole made a motion to approve the ordinance, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed with Cole, Dunn, Lange and Crow voting for and Evans voting against.

Item 11 – Bank Depository RFP Acceptance and Agreement

Edwards introduced the item noting approval of the resolution would grant authority to accept the offer from Wood County National Bank as the proposal most advantageous to the City. WCNB had provided a proposal with 0.5% flat interest payment on all demand deposits compared with 0.115% and 0.06% potentially variable from other local banks. There was also general discussion about the cost and type of services provided.

Crow made a motion to approve the resolution, Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed with Cole, Crow, Dunn and Lange voting for and Evans voting against.

Item 12 – Personnel Policies & Practices Manual Revision – Vacation Maximum Accrual

Edwards introduced the resolution noting approval would allow employees to accrue and keep vacation balances that would equal the yearly potential they are able to accrue. He explained this was different than the previous policy limiting all employees to 80 hours.

Evans made a motion to approve the resolution, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 13 – Failure to Appear System – Interlocal Agreement with Texas Department of Public Safety

Edwards introduced the resolution noting approval would grant authority to execute the contract for OMNIBASE services. He recommended approval noting this was a standard agreement for such services related to collection of outstanding Municipal Court fines. There was general discussion about the fees charged for the service, with explanation that the fees paid under the agreement were those currently being paid.

Crow made a motion to approve the resolution, Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 14 – Quitman Development Corporation Board Appointments

Edwards introduced the resolution noting passage would approve the re-appointment of Randal Bennett and Rickey Cameron to the Quitman Development Corporation Board of Directors for terms expiring October 1, 2014.

Crow made a motion to approve the resolution, Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 15 – Allocation to Utility Operating Assistance Fund

Edwards introduced the resolution noting passage would approve the transfer of positive net income from the fiscal year 2012 Utility Fund Operating Budget into the Utility Operating Assistance Fund. He noted this amount was \$53,206.65, Hall also noted that the resolution provided that this could be adjusted if the amount is adjusted in the audit or close-out process.

Evans made a motion to approve the resolution, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Evans made a motion to adjourn, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THE ITEMS CONSIDERED AND ACTION TAKEN AT THIS MEETING AND THAT THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED AS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT AN EXECUTED COPY IS ON FILE WITH THIS OFFICE.

**MICHAEL E. HALL
CITY SECRETARY-ADMINISTRATOR**