

**WILLOW PARK CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
516 RANCH HOUSE ROAD WILLOW PARK, TEXAS 76087
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2010**

I. Call to Order

Mayor Hawkins called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:38 P.M

II. Quorum Check

Mayor Ken Hawkins
Council Member Barry Tatum
Council Member Barry Brown
Council Member Mark Hickerson
Mayor Pro-tem Hale Alderman

Also Present:

City Administrator Candy Scott
City Secretary Yael Hoffman
City Attorney Rider Scott

Absent:

Council Member Gene Martin

III. Invocation by

Mayor Hawkins gave the invocation

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hawkins led the Pledge of allegiance

V. Recess to Public Hearing

Mayor Hawkins recessed to public hearing at 6:40 PM

An application to rezone a 17.336 acre (755,166 SQ. FT.) tract of land out of the I. & G.N.R.R. Co. Survey, Abstract No. 1821, Parker County, Texas: To be know as Trinity Church Properties, a proposed addition to the City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas: Being all of those certain tracts of land described in Volume 1076, Page 1258, Volume 1722, Page 269 and Volume 2457, Page 1882, Real Records, Parker County, Texas from Single Family Residential (R-2 Duplex), Local Retail (LR) and Commercial (C) to Commercial (C).

There were no comments from the public.

VI. Conclude Public Hearing

Mayor Hawkins concluded the public hearing at 6:43 PM

VII. Reconvene to Open Meeting

Mayor Hawkins reconvened to open meeting at 6:43 PM

VIII. Community Announcements

Council Member Brown announced the marching band contest, the donation from the City and the City Council to assist the Aledo Band Booster to host the Marching contest was a

success, the weather was perfect, there were 11 bands participating in the contest. Willow Park was well represented. If you weren't there you missed a good show.

Mayor Pro-tem Alderman announced that early voting starts on October 18th at the City Hall. Election Day is November 2nd with polling places at the City Hall and the Community Center. He encouraged every one to vote.

IX. Approval of minutes

Regular City Council Meeting of July 19, 2010

Special City Council meeting of August 9, 2010

Regular City Council Meeting of August 16, 2010

Special City Council Meeting of August 23, 2010

Special City Council Meeting of August 30, 2010

Special City Council meeting of September 6, 2010

Special City Council Meeting of September 13, 2010

Regular City Council Meeting of September 20, 2010

Special City Council Meeting of September 27, 2010

****Mayor Pro-tem Alderman moved to approve all the minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Hickerson**

Aye votes: Council Members: Tatum, Brown Hickerson & Alderman

Nay votes: None

Abstained: None

Motion passed with a vote of 4-0-0

X. Citizen Presentations

None

XI. Mayor's Update

Mayor Hawkins addressed the Council on an article that was published in the "*Community News*", on the sale of Deer Creek and Dyegard making note of the middle section of the article. Mayor Hawkins stated that at previous meetings he had on the agendas an item "relationship with the media" and has been thinking about this for at least three months, Mayor Hawkins stated that he would like to draw attention to some issues that he has with the media.

Mayor Hawkins made the following statement:

This is difficult for me for a couple of reasons, as we grow up in a republic or democracy, we grow up tending to revere some what the place of the press in society, so we start with deference to the press, the press is also a representation of human beings, and it is also a merging institution. The type of news that we have now is different from the type of news that our parents had on TV. The press now has an agenda rather than reporting the news dispassionately, factually, now it often reports with a slant, a purpose, an agenda.

If you watch NBC news and then FOX it is as if the two stations are on different planets. Last week I have heard 4 or 5 different stories about how the public is getting discontent with the press in our society, we have gotten to the point that you can't rely on the information that you get from the press as being a dispassionate observer. I want to draw the Council's attention to these two paragraphs as an example. This is an article about the conclusion of a five or six year law suit in our community that cost our citizens \$50,0062.00 in legal expenses. It was a terrible conflict that was a point of hatred for a number of years. A lot of credit goes to this Council that for taking the initiative to resolve, for being willing to compromise and for doing the hard work. I had a prominent official call and tell me that this was the most significant, benedictional financial transaction that has taken place in Parker County in the last 10 years. All the parties were completely satisfied. It was a big deal, a positive deal, a win, win deal; it was a good deal for everybody on every front. When I read the newspaper article about it I read these two paragraphs (The Mayor read the paragraphs). My issue that I have with the press is that rather than report that a peace treaty was signed and everybody was happy and those legal fees were over with, the press had an agenda in my opinion of putting Willow Park in a negative way in every opportunity. What is significant of these two paragraphs are that the gentleman that was being quoted was not at the meeting to sign it. There were several people and Mayors that were interviewed. I can tell you that none of them were making any negative comments at all. But the reporter took time to go out of his way to call somebody that wasn't even at the meeting and to report this type of insulting language, an affront to the Council and to every citizen that lives in Willow Park. It is unnecessarily inflammatory. This reminds me a number of events that has been reported in the newspaper recently.

The most prominent problem that I can think of is the event that Council Member Brown referred a few minutes ago. When the City donated money for the local school band the local newspaper reported it as an argument, an incitement, and offensive to the band in Weatherford. This type of negative reporting review, you see the facts, there are no negative fact so you go out of your way to dig up negative facts. I don't think this is balanced, I don't think it is honest reporting, I think it is a reporting with an agenda, I think it is not helpful to the community. It is my opinion that the original law suit that we have spent \$50,062.00 on would be never accrued if the "Community News" has not incited one group against the other many years ago. When they could have reported a balanced quote from one party or a reasoned quote from one person, the only thing that made the paper was inflammatory comments. It created an environment of brinkmanship, that each community was so inflamed that they actually pushed the governments to get lawyers and sue each other. It is my option that the original fight and total waste of legal expenses would never occurred if the "Community News" had not done that type of reporting. We as a Council are going through a lot of effort to make our City to grow, to improve, to be inviting to businesses, to do everything we can to benefit our citizens, and yet every week when I pick up the paper I am

not seeing good reports about a Council giving money to a local school, or other things the Council is doing. All I see is the incitement in the paper. I am bringing it to everybody's attention because it is so counter productive to how our community develops and so counter productive to how our city grows. Something needs to change or we need to cease buying papers from the Community News. For a long time I was a happy subscriber with the "Star Telegram". I read it everyday, in the last 3 to 4 years that I was a subscriber I have contacted them on a dozen occasions to tell them that the tone and the direction of the newspaper did not fit the demographics of Fort Worth, Texas. It was no longer a paper that reflected the opinion of the community it had become something totally different and after that falling on deaf ears I have canceled my subscription, and stopped buying it. I understand that the readership is down, and there have been thousands of subscribers that took action the same that I have taken, because it didn't reflect the values that we have here in Texas. I am slowly drawing the same conclusion about the tone of reporting that we get from the Community News. I would like to see a balanced presentation of the events that are happening, because there are thousands of hours that spent here by people on a voluntary bases with no compensation, there is a lot of good things to report about Willow Park progressing and the negativity in my opinion is out of balance.

Mayor Hawkins updated the Council and the citizen on the resolution of this sale of Deer Creek and Dyegard. The city has received a little more than 4 million dollars which was deposited in a TEXSTAR fund. This money will be transferred as needed to the Water and Wastewater funds as the City builds the infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the city. There is no city anywhere in the state of Texas maybe in the country that is our size that had that type of a win fall. A great credit goes to this Council. In the last 20 years there was no event that significantly was as beneficial to the City of Willow Park as this event. The Mayor thanked the Council of a good job.

Mayor Pro-tem Alderman made the point that we do not owe anything on these two systems.

Harris Hospital - Chuck Stark updated the Council on the infrastructure improvement. After all testing we will release the paving contract. The road will be ready around Christmas.

Glen Breish updated the Mayor and Council on the wastewater ponds on the Split Rail Golf Course and the TRA.

XII. Old Business

A. Discussion/Action – To Consider and Take Action on the Municipal Road Budget to consider outstanding obligations and assure the availability of adequate funds for contracted projects (Councilmember Brown)

No Action

B. Discussion/Action – To Consider and Take Action on procedures for establishing, controlling and managing engineering services considered or authorized by the City of Willow Park (Councilmember Martin)

No Action

Mayor Hawkins call for a break at 7:40 PM
Mayor Hawkins Reconvened to open meeting at 7:55 PM

XIII. New Business

- A. Discussion/Action – To Consider and Take Action on an application to rezone a 17.336 acre (755,166 SQ. FT.) tract of land out of the I. & G.N.R.R. Co. Survey, Abstract No. 1821, Parker County, Texas: To be know as Trinity Church Properties, a proposed addition to the City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas: Being all of those certain tracts of land described in Volume 1076, Page 1258, Volume 1722, Page 269 and Volume 2457, Page 1882, Real Records, Parker County, Texas from Single Family Residential (R-2 Duplex), Local Retail (LR) and Commercial (C) to Commercial (C) (Richard Neverdousky)

****Mayor Pro-tem Alderman moved to approve and accept the recommendation of the P&Z Commission regarding rezoning the 17.336 acre, seconded by Council Member Tatum**

Aye votes: Council Members: Tatum, Brown Hickerson & Alderman
Nay votes: None
Abstained: None
Motion passed with a vote of 4-0-0

- B. Discussion/Action – To Consider and Take Action on funding Request from Tourism Fund for East Parker County Library (Mayor Hawkins)

****Council Member Hickerson moved to approve the amount of \$7500.00 from the Tourism fund for the East Parker County Library, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Alderman**

Aye votes: Council Members: Tatum, Hickerson & Alderman
Nay votes: Council Member Brown
Abstained: None
Motion passed with a vote of 3-1-0

- C. Discussion/Action – To Consider and Take Action on necessary and appropriate surface water engineering reports with possible participation by Fort Worth, Weatherford, or Hudson Oaks (Mayor Hawkins)

****Mayor Pro-tem Alderman moved to approve the expenditure for \$36,000.00 to complete the water study that is currently and underway, not to exceed \$36,000 seconded by Council Member Brown**

Aye votes: Council Members: Tatum, Brown, & Alderman
Nay votes: None
Abstained: Council member Hickerson

Motion passed with a vote of 3-0-1

- D. Discussion/Action – To Consider or Take action on authorizing certain preliminary engineering for the relocation of the I-20 Ranch House Road Exit Ramp (Mayor Hawkins)

Tom Marquardt from Dannenbaum gave the Mayor and Council an over view of qualifications for consideration for engineering for phase two of the ramp reversal.

Chuck Stark gave the Mayor and Council an over view of qualifications for consideration for engineering for phase two of the ramp reversal.

This item was postponed to the November Council Meeting

Mayor Hawkins called for a break at 9:30 PM

Mayor Hawkins reconvened to open meeting at 9:39 PM

- E. Discussion/Action – To Consider and Take Action on participation in a community recognition event in appreciation for the work and cooperation that culminated in the sale of the Deer Creek and Dyegard Utility Systems (Mayor Hawkins)

No Action

- F. Discussion/Action – To Consider and Take Action to adopt Ordinance _____ creating one-way traffic flow on South Ranch House Road during construction. (Mayor Hawkins)

****Council Member Hickerson moved to adopted ordinance No. 627-10 an ordinance creating one-way traffic flow on South Ranch House Road during construction seconded, by Council Member Tatum**

Aye votes: Council Members: Tatum, Brown, Hickerson & Alderman

Nay votes: None

Abstained: None

Motion passed with a vote of 4-0-0

- G. Discussion – To discuss the progress of the Stagecoach reconstruction project (Mayor Hawkins)

No Action

- H. Discussion – To discuss the Council's upcoming tasks; including: code review, budget reviews, P&Z upgrades (Mayor Hawkins)

An item will be placed on the next agenda for budget final review for 2009-2010 fiscal years, and to review of the format of the budget monthly reports

A City Council and Planning & Zoning joint workshop was scheduled for November 8,

2010 at 6:30 PM

****Council Member Brown moved to combine items I, J and K, seconded by Council Member Hickerson**

Aye votes: Council Members: Tatum, Brown, Hickerson & Alderman

Nay votes: None

Abstained: None

Motion passed with a vote of 4-0-0

- I. Discussion/Action – To discuss and initiate appropriate action necessary to prepare content of Chapter One of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Willow Park for incorporation into a new consolidated codification of the cumulative approved ordinances. (Council Member Martin)
- J. Discussion/Action - To discuss and initiate appropriate action necessary to prepare content of Chapter Two of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Willow Park for incorporation into a new consolidated codification of the cumulative approved ordinances. (Council Member Martin)
- K. Discussion/Action- To discuss and initiate appropriate action necessary to prepare content of Chapter Three of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Willow Park for incorporation into a new consolidated codification of the cumulative approved ordinances. (Council Member Martin)

****Council Member Brown moved to postponed these items to the November Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Alderman**

Aye votes: Council Members: Tatum, Brown, Hickerson & Alderman

Nay votes: None

Abstained: None

Motion passed with a vote of 4-0-0

XIV. Recess To Executive Session

Mayor Hawkins recessed to executive session at 10:00 PM

Pursuant to the Provision of Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, in Accordance with Authority contained in...

- a. ...Section 551.071 – Consultations with Attorney on Legal Advice or Contemplated Litigation
 - 1. Surface water negotiation
 - 2. Statutory duties of the Office of Mayor

3. Pending or contemplated litigation

b...Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters

1. Review of Staff Reductions
2. Discussion of Personnel Performance

XV. Reconvene to Open Meeting

Mayor Hawkins reconvened to open meeting at 12:10 AM

1. Discussion/Action – To consider and take action on any item discussed in Executive Session (Mayor Hawkins)
2. Discussion/Action – To discuss and take action on any matters related to the sale of the Deer Creek or Dyegard Utility Systems

No Action

XVI. Adjournment

Mayor Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 12:10 AM

APPROVED

Kenneth Hawkins, Mayor
City of Willow Park, Texas

ATTEST:

Yael Hoffman City Secretary
City of Willow Park, Texas