

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF DUMAS, TEXAS

MARCH 2, 2009

6:30 P.M.

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THERE CAME AND WAS HELD A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUMAS, TEXAS IN THE DUMAS MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM - POLICE DEPARTMENT, 124 EAST 7TH STREET OF SAID CITY:

Members Present:

Mayor Mike Milligan
Mayor Pro Tem Pat L. Sims
Commissioner Mike Salim
Commissioner James Mahaffey
City Manager Vince DiPiazza
City Attorney Tom Moore

Members Absent:

Commissioner John D. Harris

Others Present: Kim Rehkopf, Mike Funk, Thelma Cannon, Thomas Cannon, Dottie Williams, Isidro Renteria, Loke Marquez, Renee Vincent, Jack Stanley, Judy Pendley, Karla Smith, Paul J. Jenkins, Grace Pierson, Jack Braswell, Dale Alwan, Greg Lewis, R.D. Leimer, Laurel Mitchell, and Greg Tanner.

Mayor Milligan called the meeting to order.

During attending citizens and their business Mayor Milligan stated Sunbelt Pools has poured the concrete for the new swimming pool and progress is going faster than the city thought. Mayor Milligan said the city is also seeking to hire a public works director.

Commissioner Mahaffey asked about the following bills: GovDeals, \$340.70. City Manager Vince DiPiazza said this cost is for the on-line auction to sell city vehicles. Dale-Ann & Co., \$3,625 for the gas department. Gas Superintendent Jack Braswell said this cost was to purchase fifty gas meters. Mr. Braswell said the city keeps approximately fifty gas meters in stock. Crich Transmissions, \$1,700 for the gas department. Mr. Braswell said this cost was to repair the transmission on the 1999 Chevrolet pickup. L.T. Drilling Company, \$11,828.30 for the water department. Mr. DiPiazza said this cost was to pull and repair the pump in well No. 17. Marsh Electrical Supply, \$1,477.50 for the park department. Park Director Karla Smith said this cost was to repair the RV/travel trailer electrical hookups at Texhoma Park. Ms. Smith said some of the hookups have been run over the last few years. Ballard Plumbing, \$2,905.87 for the fire department. Fire Chief Paul J. Jenkins said this cost was for plumbing on the remodeling project at the fire department. Pampa Fire Extinguisher Service, \$385.70 for the fire department.

Chief Jenkins said this cost was for fire extinguisher inspections at all city departments. Mayor Milligan asked if a city firefighter could become certified to inspect the fire extinguishers. Chief Jenkins said it was possible for a firefighter to become certified and there is a significant cost to purchase the testing equipment and a liability risk for the city. Mayor Milligan said the city should consider selling fire extinguishers. Lewis Construction, \$1,154.62 for the street department. Mr. DiPiazza said this cost was for hot mix. A motion was made by Commissioner Mahaffey, seconded by Commissioner Salim, and passed unanimously to approve the March 2, 2009 Regular City Commission meeting minutes and paying the bills.

The Commission discussed item one on the formal session concerning a request for utilities outside the city limits on McClary Road for Randy Hunter. Mr. Hunter was not present and Mayor Milligan asked Mr. DiPiazza if he told Mr. Hunter he could not have utilities outside the city limits. City Manager Vince DiPiazza said he told the real estate agent, the person interested in buying the property, and Mr. Hunter, who he thinks is the property owner, about the city's policy, that the city does not extend new utilities outside the city limits. Mr. DiPiazza also told them he could not deny them of the opportunity to go before the Commission. Mayor Milligan said there was no need to take action, and Mr. DiPiazza said the Commission should take official action on this request. Mayor Milligan said the person was not present to make the request. City attorney Tom Moore said the Commission should take action on this request just to be clear of the city's policy. The commission told the public the city does not allow new utilities outside the city limits but the policy does allow for economic development type issues. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sims, seconded by Commissioner Salim, and all opposed the request for utilities outside the city limits on McClary Road for Randy Hunter.

D.E.D.C. Executive Assistant Grace Pierson asked the commission to consider approving D.E.D.C. to provide \$69,000 for a career and technical institute for Amarillo College - Moore County Campus for students locally. Funds would prepare a Class One certificate in renewable wind energy technology. Ms. Pierson said this is not a budgeted item, but D.E.D.C. does have the money to fund this project. The D.E.D.C. Board approved this funding at their February 9, 2009 meeting. This money would pay for operational expenses, equipment, and software necessary to begin this program. Amarillo College - Moore County campus will match the funds to help with the training. There is potential funding at state legislature to provide additional training monies for advanced wind energy and solar training. Mayor Milligan asked if the \$725,000 would actually be spent for this project. Jack Stanley, with Amarillo College, is over science and engineering for all campuses. Mr. Stanley said he currently has 150 students enrolled in this program and there are over 500 students on the waiting list. Mr. Stanley said Amarillo College has not advertised this program. A motion was made by Commissioner Salim, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sims, and passed unanimously to approve D.E.D.C. funding of \$69,000 for a career and technical institute for renewable wind energy technology at Amarillo College - Moore County Campus.

City Inspector Greg Tanner presented a preliminary plat for Dumas Independent School District for the intermediate school. Mr. Tanner said the planning and zoning

commission unanimously approved the preliminary plat with the recommendation that the city commission consider approving the preliminary plat. Mr. Tanner said the school has bought all of the property from E. 2nd Street to E. 7th Street, but the school would be built from E. 2nd Street through E. 5th Street. Mr. Tanner said the street would be called Texas Avenue and would be directly south of Carson Avenue. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sims, seconded by Commissioner Mahaffey, and passed unanimously to approve the preliminary plat for D.I.S.D. intermediate school.

City Manager Vince DiPiazza presented an existing agreement with Sprint/Alamosa and said Stelera Wireless would like the same terms that are in their agreement to lease space on two city water towers; S. Birge and Salim Towers. Site Development Manager Laurel Mitchell with Stelera Wireless said they are working to provide high speed wireless internet to rural communities with a population of less than 20,000. Ms. Mitchell said Stelera Wireless are using USDA funds to design and build in rural coverage areas that will provide faster and reliable wireless internet service to Sherman, Moore, and Potter Counties. Ms. Mitchell said Stelera Wireless would provide coverage to residents and businesses. Education facilities will benefit by being able to work with larger files and faster speeds, up to 7mps. Ms. Mitchell said by purchasing a wireless card for \$50 a month, this provides wireless internet access on ranches, farms, and businesses that are located in the country and also city residents. A motion was made by Commissioner Mahaffey, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sims, and passed unanimously to approve a lease agreement with Stelera Wireless to lease space on S. Birge and Salim city water towers for \$2,000 a month, (\$1,000 per tower lease space), with an annual four percent increase.

Finance Director Dottie Williams presented a letter from Moore County Appraisal District in preparation of the 2009 tax role concerning the homestead exemption and the amount of the exemptions the city would give for the year 2009. Ms. Williams said in 2008 the Commission approved the homestead exemption of \$50,000 over the age of 65 and disabled veterans. A motion was made by Commissioner Salim, seconded by Commissioner Mahaffey, and passed unanimously to approve the 2009 annual homestead exemption of \$50,000 for homeowners over the age of 65 and disabled veterans.

Finance Director Dottie Williams presented an agreement with On-line Utility Exchange concerning real-time credit and identity verification services. Ms. Williams said this company provides identity verification, risk assessment services, and this service does integrate with the city's software, HTE. Ms. Williams said this service searches the social security number of the customer and returns a verification letter in four seconds of the match based on information the city already collects on each customer. This service will alert the city of any possible mismatch on social security numbers or any past reported identity theft or fraud victims associated with that social security number. This company also searches for any bad debt that is reported on the customer's credit report or to any other exchange clients, and can generate an adverse action letter that can be given to the customer. Hopefully that will prompt the customer to pay off any bad debt that is on their credit record. Ms. Williams said the cost of this service is \$2.70 per report and \$30 per month access fee, and this company suggests that the city charge a \$5.00

application fee for each new customer to offset the cost of the service. A motion was made by Commissioner Mahaffey, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sims, and passed unanimously to approve the agreement with On-line Utility Exchange for credit and identity verification services with a \$30 per month access fee, \$2.70 per report fee, and allow the city to charge a \$5.00 application fee for new customers.

City Manager Vince DiPiazza presented a resolution setting the natural gas rate. Mr. DiPiazza said the city has set a natural gas rate through December 2009 and could extend the natural gas agreement from January through March of 2010 for \$6.00 to \$6.10. Customers are currently paying \$6.49 plus the \$2.50 adder fee. Mr. DiPiazza said the city could also extend the agreement to the summer of 2010 with the natural gas rate at \$6.20 to \$6.25 plus the adder fee of \$2.50. A motion was made by Commissioner Salim, seconded by Commissioner Mahaffey, and passed unanimously to approve Resolution No. 09-02 setting the natural gas rate through August 2010. Mr. DiPiazza said he would inform the Commission of the exact locked in gas rate the next day.

Mayor Milligan recessed into executive session at 7:23 p.m. for deliberation regarding real property concerning a possible acquisition of real property water rights. Mayor Milligan recessed the executive session at 7:44 p.m. and reopened the regular meeting. There were no decisions made or votes taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Mike Milligan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vince DiPiazza, City Manager