

The Regular Council Meeting of October 28, 2014 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MAYOR**

Ron Reinhard

**OTHERS**

Shannan Kinsley  
Chief David Bejar  
Chris Mikel  
Susan Beavin  
Lou Hoffman  
Don Reddout  
Gigi Duke  
Brenda Reinhard

Kay McCloskey  
Freda Hoffman  
Madeline McCloskey  
Shane Reddout  
Storms Duthie  
Chris Kane  
Susan Darst  
Aurelia Scharnhorst

Marjorie Mautz  
Bunny Bacchetta  
Joe Bacchetta  
James Henry Frazar  
Joni Simon

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Don Nettle  
Jennifer Nottingham - Absent  
Mitch Thornton  
Lynn Tiner  
Jeff Waldrop

Mayor Reinhard declared a quorum with Councilmember Nettle, Councilmember Thornton, Councilmember Tiner and Councilmember Waldrop present. Mayor Reinhard stated Councilmember Nottingham would be absent this evening.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 23, 2014 Regular Council Meeting were reviewed. Councilmember Nettle stated on page 1, Presentations by Citizens and Visitors, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, last line, where it states “descending” the record should be changed to reflect “dissenting”. The motion to accept the September 23, 2014 minutes with the one correction noted was made by Councilmember Waldrop, seconded by Councilmember Tiner and passed with 3 YES and 1 ABSTAINED by Councilmember Thornton as he was not present at the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS AND VISITORS**

Kay McCloskey stated they bought the old Bingham property on Hilltop. When they bought the house, they knew it would need extensive work. As they removed damaged sheetrock and paneling, it became apparent the house wouldn't be a safe environment unless they removed all the ceiling/wallboard. They devised a plan to redo the ceiling. Their contractor submitted drawings to the City and the permit was approved. There was no pre-permit inspection, no feedback and no content review of what was submitted. Last week when they had their first inspection of the project; it became a nightmare as they received the denial. There was no detailed written explanation, only verbal. They were advised it wasn't grandfathered and would need to meet current code which would cost approximately an additional \$15,000 after they've already done upgrades of \$65,000. They were advised they could hire a Structural Engineer to provide a report stating the house doesn't need further structural support and they plan to take this option. Mrs. McCloskey stated she understands the contractor should have known the Building Code however, she knows other citizens have encountered problems with the permitting process. She is asking Council's help in resolving the problems in the permitting process and revise the City Building Code to require an onsite inspection with written report prior to issuing a permit. This would insure a better inspection outcome without surprises. They would have gladly paid for a pre-permit inspection.

Susan Beavin, Lou Hoffman and Brenda Reinhard stated they would like to wait to and speak during Agenda Item No. 6. Mayor Reinhard stated they could comment at that time.

**MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mayor Reinhard stated the financials reflect the final numbers at year end. The year ended with income exceeding 100% of what was budgeted and expenses coming in under budget. We are one month into the new budget year so there hasn't been a lot of activity at this point. Mayor Reinhard stated he and Councilmember Thornton met with the SLPC Board to discuss the City and SLPC working together. It was an initial discussion and no decisions were made. He would like to schedule a Council Workshop to meet with the SLPC Board and will ask Shannan to get Council's availability.

**COUNCIL/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Reinhard stated Councilmember Nottingham is not present to report. The Madla Board is having a work day on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and welcome volunteers. Texas Parks & Wildlife will conduct the project end inspection in early November to validate the work completed and close the grant out. Susan Beavin stated the historical marker Scenic Loop~Boerne Stage Alliance has been working on has been approved by the Texas Historical Society and is being sent to the foundry to be produced.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT**

The September 2014 Monthly Activity Report was reviewed. Chief Bejar introduced new Reserve Officers Gary Mound who retired from the City of San Antonio after 30 years and Jose Morin from the City of Natalia. Council welcomed the new Reserve Officers. Chief Bejar stated they continue to work on the burglary case. They have recovered some of the stolen items from pawn shops and have persons of interest. He stated it's important to remind everyone to report suspicious activity.

### **PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chris Mikel reviewed the September 2014 Monthly Activity Report. They continue to work on tree trimming, mowing/weed eating, road work, regular maintenance of the City/Madla Park and animal control.

### **GFU UTILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Reinhard stated the utility continues to do well. Their budget year ends in December. We continue to stay in Stage 1 Water Restrictions. The well levels are posted at City Hall. The well levels are at 490 feet which is about 10 feet from reaching Stage 2. If this continues, GFU will send out notice of Stage 2 Water Restrictions. .

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Don Reddout stated there were 5 calls in the City in September; 2 Medical/EMS and 3 other than Medical. He stated over the last couple of months calls have been lower than normal in the County and higher than normal in the City.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **1. DISCUSS AND ACT ON MOVING THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**

Mayor Reinhard stated the November/December Council Meetings both fall on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and Christmas. Over the past couple of years Council has moved the meetings to the third Tuesday of the month so it doesn't interfere with the holidays as much. The motion to move the November Council Meeting to November 18, 2014 and the December Council Meeting to December 16, 2014 at the same 6:30 p.m. time was made by Councilmember Waldrop, seconded by Councilmember Thornton and passed unanimously.

#### **2. DISCUSS AND ACT ON RESOLUTION NO. 001-14 LEGALLY DESIGNATING THE HELOTES ECHO AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR PUBLISHING ALL LEGAL NOTICES AND ADS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST**

Mayor Reinhard stated every year we are required to legally designate an official newspaper for legal ads and notices for the City. Traditionally, the City designates The Helotes Echo and he feels they have served us well. The motion to approve Resolution No. 001-14 designating The Helotes Echo was made by Councilmember Tiner, seconded by Councilmember Nettle and passed unanimously.

**3. CONSIDER AND ACT ON MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT AURELIA SCHARNHORST AS AN ALTERNATE BOARDMEMBER ON THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Mayor Reinhard stated the Board of Adjustment handles cases where there is a deviance from building ordinances. The Board of Adjustment has six Boardmembers and three Alternate positions. There are currently two vacancies for the Alternate positions. Mayor Reinhard stated Aurelia Scharnhorst has expressed an interest in serving as an Alternate and feels she would be a good addition to the Board. The motion to approve the Mayor's recommendation and appoint Aurelia Scharnhorst as an Alternate on the Board of Adjustment was made by Councilmember Waldrop, seconded by Councilmember Tiner and passed unanimously. Mayor Reinhard thanked Aurelia for her willingness to serve.

**4. DISCUSS AND ACT ON ESTABLISHING A SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND A CITY ENGINEER OR ENGINEERING FIRM**

Mayor Reinhard stated our City Engineer, Michael Coyle passed away last year. We've contacted Coyle Engineering and they are no longer providing engineering services, only surveying. Mayor Reinhard stated the City needs to find an engineering firm and would like to appoint a subcommittee to bring back a recommendation to Council. He would like to see if a couple Councilmembers and possibly a citizen would be willing to help with the search. We've contacted several surrounding cities and received names of engineering firms they are using as a possible starting point. Councilmember Waldrop and Councilmember Tiner volunteered. Laurie Hawkins volunteered as a citizen. They advised they will work together and bring back a recommendation to Council.

**5. DISCUSSION REGARDING ANNEXATION OF THE McNEEL PARK AREA**

Mayor Reinhard stated the residents in the McNeel Park Area have expressed an interest in being annexed. He met with them and had an initial discussion. He asked them to put a plan together for Council detailing what they are expecting from the City and what they bring to the table. They are not formally requesting annexation today but are looking to see if the City is interested in moving forward. Storms Duthie stated the area was developed in the 1930's. As a condition of annexation, the property owners are requesting garbage/recycle collection, Police/Fire protection, road maintenance, brush/tree trimming along roads, negotiate ordinances similar to the Cedar Crest annexation and enforcement of ordinances in the annexed areas. In addition, as part of the annexation, the property owners would transfer ownership to the City their green space, the property along Scenic Loop Road with dam and the existing water system with lot. No utility services are requested as part of the annexation. Most properties have existing private wells and propane service in place. If a property owner requests these services, they may do so at the property owner's expense. All roads are currently in good condition and do not require replacement. Storms Duthie stated they realize an annexation of this size would take several years. There was further discussion on the conditions of the annexation. Mayor Reinhard stated the next step would be to develop a plan to see what kind of impact it would have on the City and the property owners. He would like to put together a presentation giving an idea of what the additional costs would be to all parties involved.

**6. DISCUSSION REGARDING ESTABLISHING TERM LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILMEMBERS**

Mayor Reinhard stated there have been various discussions on the City establishing term limits for Mayor and City Council. After researching the possibility, he's learned as a General Law City, we can't adopt term limits according to statute. General Law cities have no charter and may only exercise powers that are specifically granted or implied by statute. The statute does not provide for term limits. A Home Rule City may do anything authorized by its charter that is not specifically prohibited by the Texas Constitution or State/Federal Law. Mayor Reinhard stated although the City can't establish or adopt term limits, he would like to have a good open discussion and allow the audience to express their views. Susan Beavin stated she feels term limits are unnecessary in a City the size of Grey Forest. Anyone can run for election and people decide by their votes. Lou Hoffman stated he feels there should be a limit on consecutive terms. Term limits would encourage other citizens to serve. The incumbent always has the advantage. He stated even if term limits can't be established, it's time the Mayor and Council set the precedence that after two terms, they will step down

to allow other citizens to get involved. He stated it's time to break the cycle. Brenda Reinhard stated she believes in term limits when appropriate. She doesn't feel they are appropriate in Grey Forest. The citizens speak through their vote. It's difficult to get interested citizens as it is. Councilmember Thornton stated every two years the citizens have their voice by voting. It's up to the people to choose change. If state law allowed term limits, he would be in favor of the citizens voting whether to have term limits or not. Councilmember Waldrop stated the ballot box is the best way to be heard. Councilmember Tiner stated the people determine term limits by the ballot box. Councilmember Nettle stated he believes in terms limits on a higher scale but not at this level. He knows there may be some issues but for the most part believes Council is doing a good job. He suggests during the upcoming election, having a panel with questions for candidates instead of socializing when the City holds Meet the Candidates. Marjorie Mautz stated no one wants to run for the SLPC Board. They have to beg and rope people in. Mayor Reinhard stated he thinks term limits is a good thing at the national level but not in our small populated City. We have a relatively small pool of people interested in getting involved. Over the past eight years, only three positions have been contested and over twenty positions have been available for interested citizens to run. There was further discussion on term limits. Mayor Reinhard thanked everyone for the healthy discussion and encourages everyone to get involved.

**7. DISCUSS AND ACT ON REQUESTING A MEETING WITH ESD COMMISSIONERS/ADMINISTRATOR TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RAISED BY CITY COUNCIL DURING THE BUDGET PROCESS REGARDING THE ESD**

Mayor Reinhard stated during the budget process, there were various discussions on the Fire Department and ESD. Council expressed an interest in pursuing a meeting with the ESD and getting a dialogue going with them. Mayor Reinhard stated he would like to see if two Councilmembers would volunteer to make contact with the ESD and try to pursue a meeting. Councilmember Thornton and Councilmember Nettle volunteered to take point on this.

There was no further discussion. Mayor Reinhard adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

These minutes were written/recorded by Shawna Kinsley.

These minutes were approved as written ~~amended~~ on the 16th day of December, 2014.

Signed: Ronald G. Reinhard  
Ronald G. Reinhard, Mayor