

The Regular Council Meeting of August 25, 2015 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

MAYOR

Ron Reinhard

OTHERS

Shannan Kinsley	Don Reddout	Jim Carroll	Anthony Jackson
Chief David Bejar	Freda Hoffman	Kay McCloskey	Catherine Jackson
Chris Mikel	Susan Beavin	Ruth McKay	Tom Crick
Ed Scharf	Noah Casias	Susan Darst	Lorna Main
Marjorie Mautz	Tyler Kerser	Madeline McCloskey	Shawn Main
Gigi Duke	C. Anderson	Mandie Waldrop	
Gavan North	Debbie Swisher	Jeff English	
Laurie Hawkins	Donna Gottwald	Irene Scharf	

COUNCILMEMBERS

Lou Hoffman
Don Nettle
Jennifer Nottingham
Mitch Thornton - Absent
Lynn Tiner

Mayor Reinhard declared a quorum. He stated Councilmember Thornton is out of town on business and would not be at this evenings meeting. He sends his regrets.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 23, 2015 Regular Council Meeting were reviewed. Councilmember Nottingham stated on Page 2, Agenda Item No. 1, the record should reflect “Discuss and Act on the Threat of Oak Wilt”, not “Wilk”. Councilmember Nottingham stated on Page 3, Agenda Item No. 8, the ESD is a Commission, not a Board and the record should reflect that throughout the paragraph. In addition, they are Commissioners, not Board members and the record should reflect that throughout the paragraph. The motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Councilmember Tiner, seconded by Councilmember Hoffman and passed unanimously.

Mayor Reinhard stated the July 28, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes would be placed on the September Agenda for City Council to review and approve.

PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS AND VISITORS

Mayor Reinhard stated this is an opportunity for citizens and visitors to speak with Council on topics they are interested in. There can't be any discussion however Council may ask for clarification.

Mayor Reinhard stated this evening we have a situation where a citizen would like to speak but can't attend the meeting. Our process in the past has been to have the citizen submit the comments to the City and the Mayor would present. Mayor Reinhard stated Ginger Burkholder submitted her comments and read the statement to Council expressing her support for continued funding of the Grey Forest Area Volunteer Fire Department so that it remains in Grey Forest to protect our City and its residents. Mayor Reinhard stated Ginger Burkholder states time makes all the difference in EMS/Fire response and thanked Council for doing whatever is reasonable to maintain services in the best interest of Grey Forest.

Ed Scharf stated City Council opted out of Emergency Service District #8 in January 2007. The ESD held its election May 12, 2007. The election results from 2007 show that Grey Forest voted in that election even though City Council opted out. The election results show that 70% were in favor of joining the ESD. Ed Scharf stated he's not an attorney but to him this means Grey Forest, by this vote, is in the ESD. He stated the City needs to talk to the ESD. To get into the ESD, the City would need a signed petition of 50 registered voters. To him this means a win, win for citizens by better fire protection and possibly enormous tax savings.

Gavan North stated his concern is the gravel trucks that come through the City. He walks, runs and rides his bike in the City and has almost been hit twice by gravel trucks. He had a gravel truck knock a tree limb out in front of him which hit his truck. This has become a dangerous issue. We have kids standing out on Scenic Loop Road waiting for their bus.

Gavan North stated he doesn't know what the City can do to regulate this but would like to see us look into it and see what can be done.

Kay McCloskey stated she would like to express her support of the Grey Forest Area Volunteer Fire Department. They have helped her family several times when time was of the essence. Kay McCloskey stated she doesn't see where the City is in any financial trouble so why would you consider contracting differently. She asked what does Council plan to do if there was additional money. With the aging population in Grey Forest, why would you risk the response time. Kay McCloskey stated she is in favor of paying any dollar amount to keep fire protection across the street.

Ruth McKay stated she supports the letter from Ginger Burkholder. There is value and benefits to having the Fire Department across the street. There's a great relationship and it's been a benefactor in raising her boys as all were volunteers at the Fire Department. That's worth any dollar amount. Ruth McKay stated she's not clear on what it would mean being a part of the County but she personally wants any extra tax money to go to the Fire Department.

Susan Darst stated she echoes all the support of the Fire Department. She thinks it's very important that people know the potential change of service time. She works with the City of Helotes and they just partnered with Texas Forest Service where they did a study of our geography. We are in one of the highest potential areas for wildland fires and that speaks directly to the idea of any kind of potential service change. Susan Darst stated we have a great Fire Department and she thinks it's important to have this conversation to make sure people are aware of how it could affect all of us.

Madeline McCloskey stated she would like to express her continued support of the Fire Department. If the City needs money that bad, why aren't we asking Grey Forest Utilities for more. We have no guarantee the Fire Department will remain across the street. Madeline McCloskey stated when she needed the Fire Department and didn't know what to do, as soon as Noah who she knew showed up at her door, she thought okay everything is going to be okay. This is why she moved to this wonderful community.

Mandie Waldrop stated she wanted to speak about the traffic on Scenic Loop Road. She has put together a petition and is gathering signatures so Council can see the citizens feel this is a dangerous issue. She has researched the Texas Traffic Code and pulled together information for Council to reference. She's still in the process of pulling all the information together but wanted Council to know of the concerns. Mandie Waldrop stated she would like to encourage Council to support the citizens and look into what can be done.

Mayor Reinhard thanked everyone their comments and coming to the meeting.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Reinhard reviewed the financials. We're about 10 months into the year. Received 100% of income and a little over 80% in expenditures. The financials are doing well and we don't anticipate spending more than budgeted. Mayor Reinhard stated the City Engineer is still in the process of looking at our streets and putting together a street feasibility study. A street survey will be sent out to citizens for input on problems they see. We hope to have a report out before the Budget Public Hearing to help in the budgeting process.

COUNCIL/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Nottingham stated the Madla Board has a park cleanup scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. There's debris that accumulated over the summer. They welcome all volunteers and hope to make the park look good for the fundraiser "A Walk In The Park" the following day, Sunday, November 8th. Councilmember Nottingham stated they hope to see everyone at the cleanup and the fundraiser.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief Bejar reviewed the July 2015 Monthly Activity Report. There were 114 calls for service, 816 hours worked, 4885 miles driven, 17 summons issued and 9 warnings issued. Chief Bejar introduced new Reserve Officers Joseph (JJ) Martinez and George Felan. Officer JJ Martinez grew up in the area and has about 6 years of law enforcement experience. Officer George Felan has about 33 years of experience with the City of San Antonio and recently retired. They were both just sworn in and are in the Field Training Process.

PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Mikel reviewed the July 2015 Monthly Activity Report. Public Works continues to work on tree trimming, citizens brush chipping, pothole repairs, regular upkeep of the City/Madla Park, mowing/weedeating and animal control. Chris Mikel stated he's still looking to hire someone for the Part Time Public Works position.

GFU UTILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff English stated the utility is having a great year. They are averaging about 55 new customers a month. New customers for the year should be in excess of 550. Jeff English stated they made a perfect score on the Railroad Commission Inspection for the 5th year in a row and are very proud of that. In addition, they received a perfect score on the Texas Municipal League Insurance Inspection. The utility is considered one of the top in the Country. The wells are in great shape. A lot of our citizens are green in nature which helps in conserving. Mayor Reinhard stated the Weekly Water Levels continue to be posted at City Hall.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Don Reddout reviewed the July 2015 Fire Department Report. There was 1 Run in City for the month of July 2015. It was Fire/Other than Fire, Response Time 3.5 with 4 personnel. There have been several lightning strikes/fires in the area and are happy to report none in the City. Don Reddout stated he would like to thank GFU for donating the gas barbeque pit and other items they've helped with in the past.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSS AND ACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SWBC PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER SERVICES III, LLC IN CONJUNCTION WITH GFU

Mayor Reinhard stated several daily functions for the City are handled in conjunction with GFU, Human Resources (HR) being one. The HR employee that was at GFU has moved on. In searching for how to replace the services that she was providing, GFU began looking at a Professional Employer Services Agreement with SWBC. The City is looking at joining GFU. Jeff English stated Federal Laws, State Regulations and Human Resource requirements are very complicated. You need someone in place who's highly trained and continuously educated. The employee GFU had in place holding these certifications has determined to leave and take a position with Sam's Club. In the middle of this happening, GFU began to look at alternative ways to administer HR Services for a variety of reasons. There's a lot more to it than just maintaining employee files. Jeff English stated the agreement would be a huge savings to GFU as they wouldn't need to replace this position. There would not be additional costs to the City. SWBC would become the disbursing agent. They have a good personnel policy in place that's in compliance with laws. GFU and the City could each personalize their own personnel policy to meet specific needs. It allows SWBC to shop insurance rates with Insurance Pools they are part of possibly lowering rates. We'll have access to all HR Services such as hiring, training, disciplining, etc. Services that would stay in house with GFU and the City are retirement through TMRS. In addition, Texas Municipal League would continue to administer our Workers Compensation Program. Mayor Reinhard stated our City Attorney and Dana Jacobson have reviewed the agreement in detail. They removed one stipulation and have approved the agreement. Councilmember Nottingham asked if the City is in agreement with the changes in services. It was noted the City is in agreement. The motion to accept the Professional Employer Services Agreement with SWBC

and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City was made by Councilmember Nottingham, seconded by Councilmember Nettle and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. DISCUSS AND ACT ON UPDATE ON THE THREAT OF OAK WILT

Mayor Reinhard stated this item is carried over from the last two Council Meetings. Laurie Hawkins stated she would like to propose that Council consider increasing the fines for the Oak Wilt Ordinance. The fine is currently up to \$500 per occurrence. She recommends Council increase it to at least \$2,000 per tree, per branch and per incident. In general, her experience has been that the heavier the fine is, the more they think about not doing the activity. It makes them hesitate and the less the violation occurs. Laurie Hawkins stated if Council wants be more understanding to the residents of Grey Forest that might not be aware of the ordinance or made an innocent mistake, you could keep the residential fine up to \$500 but commercial should know better. It was the consensus of Council to place this item on the next Agenda to accept Laurie Hawkins recommendation. Chief Bejar stated the violation is a Class C Misdemeanor and there's probably a maximum fine amount. Chief Bejar will look into what the maximum fine is for a Class C Misdemeanor. Laurie Hawkins stated she will get some backup on what other general law cities in our area have in place. Laurie Hawkins stated her second item is she walked the Bluehill Pass area yesterday along with representatives from Texas Forest Service and the City of San Antonio. Texas Forest Service confirmed four properties with active Oak Wilt in the Bluehill Pass area. The Pittman property unfortunately has active Oak Wilt throughout her entire property. It appears as though it's going downhill which is towards Grey Forest. Laurie Hawkins stated she will continue to be active and ask to be part of the meetings in our ETJ to see what can be done to help minimize Oak Wilt. Based on their observation of topography and geology in the area, trenching is not an option. There will have to be some active management to help minimize. This fungus isn't crazy active, it only moves at about 100 feet a year which is still too fast but there is management options that gives you time to get your resources together. Laurie Hawkins stated because the walk just occurred yesterday, the findings have to be verified. As a result of the meeting, Texas Forest Service will make an official recommendation. As more information becomes available, she will forward to Council.

3. DISCUSS AND ACT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF A TREE ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST

Mayor Reinhard stated this item is a follow up item from the last Council Meeting. There was a large discussion that in addition to the Oak Wilt Ordinance; perhaps the City should consider a tree preservation ordinance. Mayor Reinhard stated we pulled the Helotes and Alamo Heights tree preservation ordinances to view the concepts and see if it's something Council wants to move forward with. Councilmember Nottingham stated Laurie Hawkins is the expert and has the knowledge to put this ordinance together. She recommends we turn this over to her since Laurie stated at the last Council Meeting that she's willing to take the lead on this. Councilmember Tiner stated he thinks we should move forward with putting an ordinance in place. Councilmember Nettle stated he wants to protect the trees as much as possible but wants to make sure property owners have rights. Councilmember Hoffman stated he would never knowingly harm any trees on his property but thinks we're kind of reacting to one situation. A new property owner who had the complete right to trim, messed up by trimming oak trees and not treating them. When it was brought to the property owner's attention and cited, they complied with the ordinance. The system in place worked in this situation and he's not really seeing that big of a problem to put another ordinance in place. Mayor Reinhard stated he's in partial agreement and thinks it's something to talk about. At this point, an ordinance wouldn't be intended to fix a problem, rather prevent a problem later on. We don't want to over regulate but want to keep why we all live in Grey Forest. Laurie Hawkins stated an ordinance is a way to educate. Issues can come up when people aren't educated. An ordinance can be written fairly clear and effective that doesn't over regulate but regulates just enough the people who maybe don't know and give them the opportunity to be educated. Mayor Reinhard stated it sounds like the majority of Council wants to pursue this. Laurie Hawkins volunteered to lead this. Councilmember Nottingham volunteered to coordinate and help Laurie. Mayor Reinhard stated we will carry this item over to the next agenda.

4. DISCUSS AND ACT ON REVIEW OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST

Mayor Reinhard stated this item is carried over from the last couple of Council Meetings. The Master Plan hasn't been reviewed since 2003. He received comments and suggestions from several Councilmember's that were worked into the draft provided to Council today. Mayor Reinhard stated he rearranged the draft with the same content to basically put our really interesting natural resources up front and then talk about the rest. The draft was placed on the City website for citizens to review. Councilmember Nottingham and Councilmember Hoffman provided additional suggestions and comments. These items were reviewed and there was further discussion on suggested changes to the draft. Mayor Reinhard stated he would make the changes discussed this evening and provide Council an updated copy. Mayor Reinhard suggested holding a Public Hearing to invite citizens to review and provide comments. Council agreed. This item will carry over to the next Council Meeting.

5. DISCUSS AND ACT ON FEEDBACK RECEIVED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY, CITY ENGINEER AND CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR ON REVIEW OF ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 45B

Mayor Reinhard stated Council has been working on the Zoning Ordinance for quite some time. The City Engineer and Building Inspector have reviewed the proposed ordinance and provided their suggestions/comments. Mayor Reinhard stated he suggests Council go through the comments provided and then have a Workshop to finalize the Ordinance. Once finalized, a Public Hearing is required. The proposed suggestions and comments were reviewed in detail. Mayor Reinhard stated we will update the ordinance with the changes discussed. He stated Council might want to consider an Ordinance Workshop. In addition to amending the Zoning Ordinance, we've received the Code of Ordinances back from Franklin Legal Publishing that Council will need to review. Council agreed to carry this item over and schedule an Ordinance Workshop.

6. DISCUSS AND ACT ON CURRENT STATUS OF CITY AND SLPC PROPOSALS RELATED TO SLPC PROPERTY AND LONG TERM PLANS

Mayor Reinhard stated the SLPC Board met and wants to make sure they do their due diligence, just like the City did with our City Attorney. They're going to be contacting an attorney to help draft some kind of contract. Marjorie Mautz stated they will not be getting back to membership on the 2nd as they thought and possibly not by the 9th depending on how fast the attorney can work. Mayor Reinhard stated once SLPC meets with their attorney, the City can run any differences back by our City Attorney. Once both parties have done their due diligence, SLPC can hold their vote. If membership is in favor, we will bring it before City Council for final approval.

There was no further discussion. Mayor Reinhard adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 9:43 p.m.

These minutes were written/recorded by Shawna Kinsey

These minutes were approved as ~~written~~ amended on the 27th day of October, 2015.

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