

The Regular Council Meeting of August 27, 2013 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MAYOR**

Ron Reinhard

**OTHERS**

Shannan Kinsley  
Chief David Bejar  
Chris Mikel  
Phil Hoard  
Don Reddout  
Gigi Duke  
Susan Beavin  
Brenda Reinhard

Marjorie Mautz  
Jerry Dobbs  
Lou Hoffman  
Freda Hoffman  
Amanda Waldrop  
Kyle Cunningham  
Mark Peavy  
Sue Peavy

Kathy Waldrop  
Christine Nouveau  
Linda Darst  
Don Darst

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Don Nettle  
Jennifer Nottingham  
Mitch Thornton  
Lynn Tiner  
Jeff Waldrop

A quorum was declared.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Nottingham stated the minutes of the May 28, 2013 Regular Council Meeting were approved at the Council Meeting on July 23, 2013. After the meeting, they noticed a correction and would like to have the minutes amended to reflect such. Councilmember Nottingham stated on page 2, Fire Department Report, 7 lines down, the sentence stating “Two people were at the Boston Marathon” should be taken out as the Fire Department didn’t have anyone present at the Boston Marathon. The motion to amend the May 28, 2013 minutes as corrected was made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Tiner and passed unanimously.

The minutes of the July 23, 2013 Regular Council Meeting were reviewed. Councilmember Nottingham stated on page 1, Presentations by Citizens and Visitors, second paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> line, the word “by” should be replaced with “from” so the record reflects “Mayor Reinhard stated a letter was received from”. The motion to approve the July 23, 2013 minutes as corrected was made by Councilmember Waldrop, seconded by Councilmember Nettle and passed unanimously.

The minutes of the August 12, 2013 Workshop Meeting were reviewed. The motion to accept the August 12, 2013 minutes as written was made by Councilmember Nottingham, seconded by Councilmember Thornton and passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS AND VISITORS**

Mayor Reinhard stated Presentations by Citizens and Visitors is a time to bring before City Council concerns and comments. City Council can ask for clarification but can’t engage in discussion.

Phil Howard stated he doesn’t agree with speed bumps. They’re an annoyance and interfere with emergency vehicles. He asked if the police have established that people are speeding and there’s a problem. He stated the eye can’t tell the speed. To the eye they typically look like they’re going faster than they actually are. If anything, there needs to be more speed limit signs.

Christina Nouveau stated she finds speed bumps very irritating but is okay with them if they can protect people. She stated she feels we need them and is willing to deal with the irritation.

Don Reddout stated he’s speaking as a citizen, not for the Fire Department. Mr. Reddout stated he doesn’t support speed bumps. He feels the problem is more with brush throughout the City that needs to be trimmed. More specifically, when you turn onto Morningside from Hilltop. He has been asking for years for that area to be trimmed. In addition, there has been at least one accident there and many other close calls.

Linda Darst stated she is not in favor of speed bumps. She stated they're a safety issue and there are alternative ways to handle speeders without speed bumps.

Don Darst stated he is not in favor of speed bumps. His first thought is to talk to the police and see what they can do to slow down the speeders. He stated there are other ways to detour speeders and feels you need to think about the consequences before being reactionary. Speed bumps are a safety issue. There needs to be a concern with cars going to fast hitting a speed bump on the winding streets and ending up in someone's yard.

Amanda Waldrop stated speed bumps are annoying but that's the point. The speeding problem in the City is an accident waiting to happen. People who've lived here the longest go the fastest. Speed bumps remind you to slow down. Even in an emergency, you don't want someone to get hit. She stated you could install the low wide speed bumps. You have to be mindful of the kids.

Kyle Cunningham stated she doesn't like the idea of speed bumps. She thinks they're dangerous and cause problems. She agrees the traffic is moving too fast, but a few tickets and more signs will slow it down.

Mark Peavy stated he agrees with Kyle Cunningham. Grey Forest is known for being zero tolerance and we need to bring that back and ticket even citizens. He stated speeds bumps can have an effect on drainage and there are environmental issues with emissions. They're noisy, decrease your property values and expensive.

Sue Peavy stated she doesn't want speed bumps. She stated there is nothing proven that they're doing what they are set out to do. They delay emergency workers. If you install low speed bumps, the speeders will speed over them anyways. It would need to be studied and set out by plan. The City of San Antonio has engineers who study this and set out by plan where they need to be placed, how far apart, etc.

Kathy Waldrop stated she hopes that Council will do research on the comments and information given. She stated it would be helpful if the police could ticket the speeders but knows it's hard to do on our streets. She stated the City also has part responsibility if there is an accident. Speed bumps are a positive thing you can do to slow down people. We need to look at advocating safety for the children and elderly. Kathy Waldrop stated Kitty Fischer also asked that the City look at the blind curve going up to her house.

Marjorie Mautz stated she would like to see speed bumps. She has almost been hit many times with her grandchildren. She would much rather be inconvenienced and see speed bumps than see someone get hurt. The police can't always be there when the speeders come through.

Lou Hoffman stated the City could consider removable speed bumps and do a study to see if they're effective for those concerned. If there not effective, they can easily be removed.

## **MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The monthly financials were reviewed. Mayor Reinhard stated there is about a month left in the fiscal year. Over all we are on track. There are areas where we are over budget and others where we are well under budget.

## **COUNCIL/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Nottingham stated the Madla Board had three plaques installed on boulders. The final draw on the state grant funds should be coming through. They are working out the details for final reimbursement. The cottage restoration is coming along and looks beautiful.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT**

Chief Bejar reviewed the July 2013 Monthly Activity Report.

## **PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chris Mikel provided a handout and reviewed the Public Works monthly activity. They've been working on brush chipping, roadwork, mowing/weed-eating, Madla Park and City Hall upkeep/maintenance, and tree trimming. Chris Mikel stated he will be looking for help as the employees working over the summer have gone back to school. Mayor Reinhard stated he will be getting with Chris Mikel and Laurie Hawkins to make a plan for removal of hazardous trees. During the budget process, he's also looking at contract labor to help in removal of some of the hazardous trees.

## **GFU UTILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Reinhard stated Jeff English is not present this evening. He stated the utility is doing very well. The water levels are getting very close to Stage 1 Restrictions. GFU will be sending out a letter to water customers advising of Stage 1 Restrictions. Stage 1 Restrictions are voluntary and they ask that you please conserve. He stated last year, the Board of Trustees hired a consultant to look at the wells and make sure the trigger levels are where they are suppose to be. The consultant came back and advised they're correct. Mayor Reinhard stated the Board of Trustees Meeting is tomorrow.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Don Reddout stated the Fire Department Monthly Activity Report should reflect (6) EMS calls, (1) Fire call and (1) No Response. The fire call was a deer caught in a fence but their reporting system has no area for that. He stated they're working on trying to improve the reporting system.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. CONSIDER AND ACT ON AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR WATERSHED PROJECT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF BEXAR AND CITY OF GREY FOREST, TEXAS**

Mayor Reinhard stated this has been in the works for some time and the City has supported pursuing. He stated Councilmember Nottingham has been instrumental in making this happen. Councilmember Nottingham stated Bexar County will install gates on Scenic Loop Road near Menchaca and on Menchaca near Morningside. Bexar County is only going to install the gates. Once installed and operational, Bexar County will turn over to the City of Grey Forest and they become property of the City to operate and maintain. They will do the same with the City of Helotes under a separate agreement to install a gate on Scenic Loop Road near Low Road. Then when the High Water Detection System alarm goes off, Grey Forest will be notified to close/lock the gates. Councilmember Nottingham stated painting the roads hasn't been mentioned recently but she has a meeting in September and will ask. She stated the Interlocal Agreement appoints the Director of Public Works as the City Representative and she would like that to be changed throughout the agreement to the Emergency Management Coordinator. The motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement for Watershed Project as modified was made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Waldrop and passed unanimously.

### **2. DISCUSS MIRRORS AND SPEED BUMPS INSIDE GREY FOREST CITY LIMITS**

Councilmember Nottingham stated at the last SLPC Meeting, the concern of speeding in the City and need for speed bumps was discussed. She asked for this item to be placed on agenda so that City Council would be aware of the concerns. She stated she would like to address mirrors first since the City has already identified three locations needing mirrors; Requa, Hilltop and Hillside. There was discussion on looking at placing mirrors in additional locations. The corner of Hilltop and Park by Kitty Fischer's was discussed. Mayor Reinhard asked Chris Mikel to place mirrors wherever appropriate. Councilmember Thornton stated months ago, he brought up lowering the speed limits because of

blind spots. At that time, many weren't in favor of lowering the speed limit. Council agreed that as a first step, they would add stop signs to the areas of concern. If that didn't solve the concerns, they would readdress lowering the speed limit. Councilmember Thornton stated these changes need to be made through an ordinance. He was working with Chief Rutledge on these changes but didn't get to the ordinance prior to the Chief's retirement. Councilmember Thornton stated he will work with Chief Bejar on the changes to the ordinance and have ready for the September Council Meeting. He stated many of the concerns discussed this evening will be addressed in the ordinance with the new stop signs. Chief Bejar stated he did some research and he found there are pro's and con's to speed bumps. Some studies suggest that speed bumps do work. Other studies show they damage vehicles, slow response times for emergency vehicles and that many are removed within 2-4 years because they find them not to be effective. Councilmember Nettle stated he would like to consider the alternatives to speed bumps. He feels more mirrors, stop signs and signs such as Children at Play should be our first approach. Councilmember Waldrop stated if speed bumps save one life, than it's worth any negative that comes with them. There was discussion on rumble strips at stop signs creating awareness. Mayor Reinhard stated we will get the ordinance done by the next meeting. We will educate the community on what we are trying to do. When new stop signs are installed, they will be flagged alerting the community of the new signs. Chief Bejar will try to borrow the flashing radar showing how fast you are going from Helotes. Once the new stop signs are installed, Chief Bejar will do another study with the portable radar to see if there is a speeding problem. .

**3. DISCUSS PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 MUNICIPAL ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST**

Mayor Reinhard stated on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, he submitted the proposed 2013/2014 Fiscal Year Municipal Annual Budget as required by Texas Local Government Code 102.005. Mayor Reinhard stated he would like to set a date for the Budget Public Hearing. Council consented to setting the Public Hearing on Monday, September 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Nottingham stated she would like to have a workshop for Council discussion on the budget prior to the Public Hearing. Mayor Reinhard stated he would consider a workshop. Council consented to Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. for a possible workshop.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**5. DISCUSS AND ACT ON DRAFT OF NEW ANIMAL ORDINANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGULATING ANIMALS**

Mayor Reinhard stated there have been several workshops to the review the proposed ordinance. Many good recommendations and changes have been made. The ordinance before Council reflects all the changes noted and is for final review this evening. Council completed a final review of the ordinance and minor changes were noted for correction. Shannan Kinsley stated the ordinance still needs to be sent to the City Attorney for legal review. The motion to approve the Animal Ordinance as amended provided the City Attorney makes no changes was made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Nettle and passed unanimously. Mayor Reinhard thanked Councilmember Thornton and Councilmember Nettle for their hard work on the ordinance.

Mayor Reinhard adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 8:19 p.m.

These minutes were written/recorded by Shannan Kinsley.

These minutes were approved as written/amended on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013.

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