

Village of Wimberley City Council Meeting Minutes

City Hall, 14500 RR 12, Suite 22
Thursday, February 7, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

I. Mayor Linda Hewlett called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. David Schaller of the Wimberley Presbyterian Church offered the Invocation. Mayor Hewlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor Hewlett, Council Members Walter Brown, Steve Klepfer, Martha Knies, Matt Manis, and Tony McGee.

II. Presentations of Citizens:

A. Dorothy Kerbow read a statement opposing use of a Place System to identify candidates for City Council elections. She characterized a place system as "totally inappropriate for us" because it forces competition for position on the ballot and said debate about the issue would produce "city politics at its ugliest."

B. Doran Teague presented a hand carved model of the City Seal of Wimberley to Mayor Hewlett, who accepted it on behalf of the Village of Wimberley. Mr. Teague said symbols such as the seal are used to communicate values and emotions, and he made this seal to encourage people to participate in the democratic process.

III. Consent Items:

Minutes of the Council Meeting of January 17, 2002 were accepted as presented.

IV. Action Items:

A. Adoption of ordinance setting a place system for election of Council members: Councilman Manis pulled this item from consideration at present.

B. Adoption of ordinance setting municipal election for May 4, 2002:

Mayor Hewlett presented an ordinance to set May 4, 2002 as date for the next election for Mayor and two (2) Council positions. Councilman Klepfer moved to adopt the ordinance as written. Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

C. Contract with Hays County for election services:

Mayor Hewlett presented a draft contract with Hays County for election services for

2002. Councilwoman Knies moved to approve the contract, Councilman Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

D. Selection of "Best Qualified Ranking" of engineering firms to develop a wastewater master plan and authorize City Administrator to negotiate contract:

City Administrator Steve Harrison said a Request for Qualification had been published for firms to develop a master plan for wastewater services for the Village. A committee consisting of Councilman Klepfer, David Baker (Water & Wastewater Advisory Board Chairman), David Welch (Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority), and himself had interviewed the five firms which responded. The committee reached consensus that Black & Veatch, Inc., was best qualified, and HDR Engineering, Inc., ranked second. Mr. Harrison said that if negotiations with either of these two firms were not successful, he would ask the committee to rank the next three firms and ask Council for further authorization. The committee believed all five firms are well qualified for the work. The Water and Wastewater Advisory Board approved the ranking. Councilman Klepfer moved to accept the ranking of the committee and to authorize Mr. Harrison to negotiate with them in the ranked order, Councilman Manis seconded the motion. In discussion, Councilman Klepfer said the plan would take off from the 1996 GBRA study on water and wastewater needs in the Wimberley Valley and update it to the present situation.

The motion was approved 5-0.

E. Discussion on adoption of ordinance to regulate sales and possession of fireworks:

City Administrator Steve Harrison said this item is included only for discussion to see if Council would want such an ordinance. He said there has been concern in the Planning & Zoning Commission over fireworks stands being erected in the City, and several residents have expressed concern over fire safety issues. Councilman McGee said he is opposed to considering a fireworks ordinance until there is a request for one from the fire department. Councilman Klepfer moved to table the item, Councilman Brown seconded. In discussion, Councilman Brown said the appearance of fireworks stands could be handled by writing a provision in the Zoning Ordinance on temporary or seasonal businesses.

Public Comment: Clint Frankmann expressed opposition to a fireworks ordinance, characterizing it as a restriction on the right to have fun; David Tate was opposed to it as a restriction on the celebration of freedom.

A motion to table the discussion was adopted 5-0.

F. Resolution to set public meeting to discuss adoption of hotel/motel occupancy tax:

City Administrator Steve Harrison said a workshop on a hotel/motel occupancy tax last week discussed having two public hearings on the issue. The first meeting would be a general, open public hearing, with February 28 suggested as the date for it.

Public Comment: Kay Henderson, President of the Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber is interested in the commercial situation of the Wimberley Valley, supports an occupancy tax, and hopes that if it is enacted, it will be done in time for the tourist season so that funds can be collected to help raise occupancy levels. Jim Thompson echoed Ms. Henderson's views and encouraged the Council to move forward with the debate and public comment.

Mayor Hewlett said the Council wants to have two public meetings on the issue. She said Council wants to hear what the community thinks about it. Councilman Klepfer moved to schedule a public meeting on February 28, Councilman McGee seconded. Councilman Brown noted that the Texas Municipal League has a workshop on March 14 to discuss issues related to this tax, and offered as a friendly amendment that the second public meeting be on the agenda for the Council meeting on March 21. Councilmen Klepfer and McGee accepted the friendly amendment. The motion was approved 5-0.

VI. City Administrator Report:

Public Comment: Clint Frankmann said the Village Thrift Store has had a slab poured for its expansion, but when he asked the manager when they would begin to frame the building, he was told the store is awaiting a permit from Planning & Zoning Commission. He asked if there were a way to speed the decision because in construction matters, time is money.

City Administrator Steve Harrison reported:

A. There will be a joint City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission work session on Thursday, February 14, at 2:00 p.m., at City Hall, to discuss City-initiated zoning. The City attorney will attend, the meeting should last about two hours, and if further discussion is needed, a later session can be scheduled. Mayor Hewlett encouraged the public to attend the meeting.

B. The City Attorney met with the Ethics Committee. Mr. Harrison said it was a highly productive meeting with a good discussion of what should be included in an ethics ordinance. The attorney is putting the results of the discussion into the form of an ordinance and will it to the committee by mid-February.

C. A Request for Qualification (RFQ) for selection of a firm to be city engineer closes February 28. A small committee will make an initial selection and decide which firms to interview. Council discussed who should form the selection committee; it was agreed members should include the chair or chair's designee of both the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Building Code Committee, Council members Manis and Klepfer, and City Administrator Harrison.

D. Letters have been sent to a large number of individuals and firms in the building community and to the Building Code Committee inviting them to a meeting on permits, ordinances, and the zoning process at 10:00 a.m. on February 13. The City building inspector will discuss the process of getting permits and listen to ideas and suggestions from participants.

E. Mr. Harrison is reviewing the draft of procurement and purchasing policy. He expects there will be no major changes, but the state legislature mandated some changes in its last session and those must be incorporated into our policy. He hopes to have a draft policy ready by the first Council meeting in March.

F. Under state law, counties and municipalities must sign Interlocal Agreements on approval of subdivisions in municipal extra-territorial jurisdictions by April 1. Originally, Hays County officials wanted to sign similar agreements with all municipalities in the county but now they doubt this is feasible. Now they think that if the county is still responsible for wastewater permitting and road maintenance in ETJ areas, it should retain some say in subdivision matters. Councilman Brown said he would like to be involved in any negotiations with the county on this issue. Mayor Hewlett said all the mayors in the county have different ideas on how the agreements will work, and the county will probably handle the issue municipality by municipality.

G. The next financial report will be ready after the next Council meeting. The annual audit has begun and should be finished in two months.

VII. Announcements and Future Agenda Items:

A. Councilman Manis said that in checking the City's telephone bills, he has seen several long distance calls, which he cannot account for. If people using the City's telephones do not provide information on their long distance calls, the city may have to put codes on the telephones. Mayor Hewlett suggested that copies of telephone bills be put in each Council member's box for them to identify their calls.

B. Councilwoman Knies reminded everyone there is City-leased free public parking behind the Cypress Creek Café and asked everyone to pass the word so it will be used. On Saturday, volunteers from Cypress Creek Church and Keep Wimberley Beautiful will work on pathways from the parking area to the Square. The Historic Preservation Committee will meet next week, probably on Tuesday. A Historic Preservation Ordinance has been with the city attorney for some time; she hopes to bring it to Council in March. She will miss the next two Council meetings.

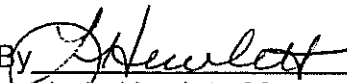
C. Councilman Brown said he wants to discuss changes to the Agenda format in the next Council meeting, and wants to have a report on improvements to the City's voice data system and on progress toward getting a zoning map on the agenda.

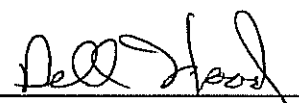
D. Councilman McGee reminded everyone of the two fine high school basketball teams in town. The Lady Texans team is runner-up in District and will play Hallettsville next week. The boys team is undefeated in District play and ranks 9th in the state in 3-A basketball.

E. Mayor Hewlett said the City has received a letter from FEMA approving the City's application to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Flood insurance is now available to local property owners from licensed brokers. She also received a letter from State representative Rick Green congratulating the City on its grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife for the Community Center.

Council adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

VILLAGE OF WIMBERLEY

By  _____
Linda Hewlett, Mayor

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Dell Hood, Recorder