

City of Wimberley
City Hall
221 Stillwater
Wimberley, Texas 78676
Minutes of Regular Meeting of City Council
April 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Bob Flocke.

Mayor Flocke gave the Invocation and Councilmembers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Bob Flocke and Councilmembers Tom Talcott, Matt Meeks, and John White. Councilmembers Mac McCullough and Steve Thurber were absent.

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Ferguson and City Secretary Cara McPartland

Proclamations

- A. Proclamation of the Mayor of the City of Wimberley, Texas declaring April 2013 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
- B. Proclamation of the Mayor of the City of Wimberley, Texas declaring April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month
- C. Proclamation of the Mayor of the City of Wimberley, Texas declaring the week of April 21-27, 2013 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Mayor Flocke read and presented the proclamations to representatives in attendance from Hays Caldwell Women's Center, local law enforcement agencies, and Hays County Victims Services. Representatives provided information on specific services to Wimberley residents and on upcoming activities and a fundraising event.

Citizens Communications

Wimberley Independent School District (WISD) Superintendent Dwain York spoke of efforts to have the school zone sign removed from in front of the former Bowen Elementary campus and stated Texas Department of Transportation has been given permission to remove the signage. Mr. York requested that City Council members give his contact information to any citizens who have questions or concerns about WISD's upcoming school bond election. He spoke on the need for enhanced communications with the community at large and proposed the placement of electronic marquis-type signs at the WISD administration building and certain campuses. He noted WISD's status as a governmental entity that is exempt from current sign regulations, and felt electronic signs would improve communications with the entire community. He asked that Council consider the impact of the proposed amendment of the City's Sign Ordinance (see Agenda Item No. 3) on WISD's planned electronic signage. He offered to share use of

the sign(s) with the City and any community organizations that are interested in displaying informational messages.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of April 4, 2013
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Special City Council meeting of April 4, 2013
- C. Approval of the March 2013 Financial Statements for the City of Wimberley

Councilmember Meeks moved to approve all Consent Agenda items, as presented. Councilmember White seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

Councilmember White announced that on Saturday, April 20, 2013, there will be a free electronic recycling event open to the public, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Texas State University's Strahan Coliseum parking lot in San Marcos.

2. City Administrator Report

- Status report on sales tax collections for the City of Wimberley

City Administrator Ferguson reported that collections representing February sales totaled \$39,750.80, which is up seven percent (7%) from the same time last year. He noted that the City's next check will be an indicator of the effect of lost sales tax revenue to the City as a result of the Ace Hardware fire.

- Status report on the proposed creation of the Needmore Ranch Municipal Utility District

City Administrator Ferguson reported that copies of letters of opposition from Mayor Flocke, Hays County Commissioners Court Judge Bert Cobb, and Hays County Precinct 3 Commissioner Will Conley, along with the City's resolution opposing the MUD were hand delivered to each member of the Texas House and Senate on the morning of April 17, 2013. He noted that the Special Districts Committee was receptive to concerns about proposed House Bill 3918 and Senate Bill 1868. He stated a community meeting is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the Wimberley Community Center on this issue.

- Status report on the City of Wimberley loan application to fund the planning and design of a central Wimberley wastewater system

City Administrator Ferguson reported that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has approved the City's loan application. A bond issuance calendar will be presented to Council at its May 2nd meeting.

- Status report on central Wimberley water quality issues

City Administrator Ferguson reported on enhanced testing results showing continued elevated bacteria levels, target testing to help isolate pollution sources, and post-Market Days dye testing results.

- Status report on the development and operation of the Blue Hole Regional Park

City Administrator Ferguson reported that the Concert in the Park series has been very successful, with slightly over \$1,100 in donations collected to date. He reported on attendance figures and reminded that the Friends of Blue Hole annual Concerts for the Park fundraising event is scheduled for June 7-9, 2013.

- Status report on the operation of the Wimberley Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant

City Administrator Ferguson reported that the plant is operating well within permit limits.

3. Ordinance

Consider approval of an ordinance of the City of Wimberley, Texas amending Chapter 152 (Signs) of the Code of Ordinances of the City in order to remove the exemption for flashing signs installed by a governmental entity or public utility; providing for an effective date; proper notice and meeting, severability and repealer. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson explained that currently any informational sign of a governmental entity/public utility is exempt from sign regulations. He stated that the proposed amendment would allow exemptions, *except* for a flashing sign, which would be prohibited regardless of whether it is installed or required to be installed by a governmental entity/public utility. He read the definition of “flashing sign” from the City’s Sign Ordinance. The proposed amendment comes in response to Council’s recent decision against placement of a flashing sign at the Wimberley Community Center and recent inquiries by WISD about the possible installation of flashing signs on school property.

City Administrator Ferguson anticipated a recommendation from the Sign Ordinance Review Task Force to allow one multi-user (1) electronic flashing sign to be placed in a central location to help fill the void left by the discontinuation of the Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) over-the-road banner program.

Discussion addressed:

- Definition of a flashing sign
- Number and locations of flashing signs proposed by WISD
- Authority of Council to change the exemption requirement
- Council’s prior decision to not approve a community message board flashing sign at the Wimberley Community Center
- Possible time limitations on operation of a flashing sign
- Need to review WISD’s proposed signage design
- Possible additional locations for flashing signs

- Possible City of Wimberley/PEC/WISD partnership
- Several smaller flashing signs versus a single larger sign
- Impact of the discontinuation of PEC’s over-the-road banner program on local event attendance

Councilmember Talcott moved to deny the proposed amendment to the Sign Ordinance and to direct staff to work with WISD to present an alternative proposal for two (2) flashing signs. There was brief discussion on the anticipated recommendation from the Sign Ordinance Review Task Force. Councilmember Meeks seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to increase the various facility reservation fees for the Blue Hole Regional Park. (*Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*)

City Administrator Ferguson recommended approval of following fee adjustments, as proposed by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board at its March 20, 2013 meeting:

	Existing Fee	Proposed Fees		
		Resident	Non-Resident	Deposit
Community Pavilion	\$100 per hour	\$75 per hour	\$90 per hour	\$100
Wood-Grinstead Amphitheatre	\$40 per hour	\$65 per hour	\$80 per hour	\$100
Recreation Loop Picnic Area	\$40 per hour	\$50 per hour	\$65 per hour	\$100
Christopher Blab Basketball Court	No Fee	\$40 per hour	\$50 per hour	NA
Volleyball Court	No Fee	\$20 per hour	\$30 per hour	NA
Recreation Equipment Bag	\$30 per hour	\$15 per hour	\$20 per hour	NA

In addition, the Board recommends the playscape no longer be available for exclusive rental, in order to be available to all park users at all times.

Discussion addressed:

- Reservations required only for exclusive use
- Enforcement of use of reserved areas
- Market comparison of proposed fees with comparable facilities
- Posted signage for reserved areas

Councilmember Talcott moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember White seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to contract with *The Big Drip Ice Cream Parlor* to provide concession/food services at the Blue Hole Regional Park for the 2013 Summer Season. (*Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*)

City Administrator Ferguson presented the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board’s recommendation to contract with *The Big Drip Ice Cream Parlor* to be the exclusive food vendor

for the 2013 Summer Season at Blue Hole Regional Park. He provided details of the operation, menu, pricing, and dates/hours. The proposal calls for the vendor to pay the City \$500 per month to provide concession services, while the City would provide a water source, electricity, restrooms, trash cans, and a freezer hookup. He noted that two (2) other local food trailer operators were consulted, but were not in a position to provide services this summer. Both indicated that they may be interested next year.

Councilmember Talcott moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember Meeks seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

- C. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposed process for the distribution of City funds designated for social service organizations. (*Budget Advisory Board*)

City Administrator Ferguson presented the *Operating Policy – City of Wimberley Community Support Fund* as recommended by the Budget Advisory Board at its meeting on April 17, 2013. Details were provided on procedures related to review/scoring of applications, role of the Budget Advisory Board, and allocation of funds. Discussion included possible recipients and a truncated application timeframe for the current fiscal year.

Councilmember Talcott moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember Meeks seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

6. City Council Reports

- Announcements
- Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Talcott requested an update from the owner of the *Dripping Springs News-Dispatch* on his commitments to publish an online edition and hold a subscription drive for Wimberley residents to increase readership. He complimented the *Wimberley View* on its recent coverage.

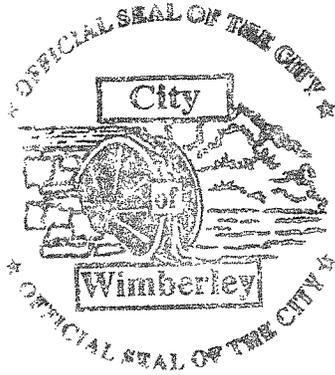
Hearing no further announcements or future agenda items, Mayor Flocke called the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: Council meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Recorded by:


Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 2nd of May, 2013.



APPROVED:

Bob Flocke

Bob Flocke, Mayor