

City of Wimberley
City Hall
221 Stillwater
Wimberley, Texas 78676
Minutes of Regular Meeting of City Council
April 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Steve Thurber.

Reverend Ellen Debenport of Unity Church of Wimberley gave the Invocation.

Mayor Thurber and Councilmembers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Steve Thurber, Councilmembers Tom Talcott, Cindy Anderson, Matt Meeks, Pam Showalter, and John White.

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

Proclamations

- A. Proclamation of the City Council of the City of Wimberley, Texas, proclaiming April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month
- B. Proclamation of the City Council of the City of Wimberley, Texas, proclaiming April 2015 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

Mayor Thurber spoke on an increase in abuse cases in Hays County and the need to raise awareness, read both proclamations, and presented them to the following representatives: Julia Ramsay New of the Greater San Marcos Youth Council; Garrie Borden of Hays Caldwell Women’s Center, and Sherril DuBois and Tricia Schneider of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Representatives thanked Council for its support and spoke of collaborative efforts to deal with the significant increase in abuse/assault cases during the last year.

Citizens Communications

No citizen comments were heard.

1. Consent Agenda

Approval of minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of March 19, 2015

Councilmember White moved to approve the minutes, as presented. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

2. City Administrator Report

- Status report on the Central Wimberley Wastewater Project

City Administrator Ferguson reported that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is expected to respond within the next two weeks on the contested case hearing process.

- Status report on May 9, 2015 City of Wimberley General Election

City Administrator Ferguson reported on early voting dates and times, which are also available on the City's website.

- Status report on efforts to stop Electro Purification from developing and operating water well fields in Hays County

City Administrator Ferguson reported on legislative bills filed to date, filing of a lawsuit by Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA), and options such as possible extension of City boundaries or incorporation by residents of the well field area.

- Status report on the Cypress Creek gravel removal project

City Administrator Ferguson reported on removal of significant amounts of gravel at specific locations and thanked the Meeks Family for its help and cooperation. He noted that the gravel removal has resulted in enhanced flows. He advised that flood work will commence within the next three weeks.

- Status report on the 2015 Concert in the Park Series at the Blue Hole Regional Park

City Administrator Ferguson reported on the Series dates/ times, with admission by donation. He encouraged attendance at the event, which will feature low-key acoustic music, and noted data-gathering efforts to better inform visitors of Park activities. He stated that hiring for seasonal employees is underway and announced that recognized Park employee Jan Allison is leaving Wimberley to be closer to family.

In addition, City Administrator Ferguson reported on a request received from Aqua Texas seeking an easement for some Mill Race Lane property owners who are in need of wastewater service. He reminded that City Hall will be closed tomorrow for Good Friday and that parking lot repairs have been completed.

3. Ordinance

Consider approval of an ordinance of the City of Wimberley, Texas amending Chapter 152 (Signs) of the City of Wimberley Code of Ordinances to require registration of pre-existing non-conforming off-premise signs; and providing for the following: findings of fact, savings, severability, repealer, effective date, and proper notice and meeting. (*Place Four Councilmember Pam Showalter*)

Councilmember Showalter spoke of the original sign inventory conducted shortly after the City's incorporation and the need to update sign data to clarify which off-premise signs were pre-existing (in existence prior to the City's approval of sign regulations) and non-conforming. She noted multiple types of acceptable evidence that property owners may submit to prove whether or not their non-conforming sign is pre-existing (or "grandfathered"). She felt gathering accurate data is an important first step to determine the status of off-premise signs before making decisions on potential removal of such signs.

City Administrator Ferguson summarized ordinance provisions allowing for flexibility in the types of evidence of non-conforming status that applicants may submit and details of the registration program, including definitions of specific terms and examples of non-conforming signs.

Discussion addressed notification of property owners where off-premise signs are located, clarification of acceptable documentation of a sign's continuous existence/use, and loss of grandfathered status if a sign is removed or replaced due to age/disrepair.

Councilmember Showalter moved to approve the ordinance, as presented, including adding July 1, 2015 to §152.14 (G), as the effective date of the ordinance. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Discussion clarified that if any existing off-premise signs are removed they cannot be replaced with new signs due to current sign regulations prohibiting off-premise signage. City Administrator Ferguson noted that the City has the ability to take action to remove signs that are structurally unsound.

4. Discussion and Possible Action

Discuss and consider possible action regarding a request from Wimberley Valley Art League to place directional signage in the right-of-way relating to Wimberley Arts Fest on April 17-19, 2015. *(City Administrator)*

City Administrator Ferguson recommended approval of the request to place temporary small directional signage at key locations for the upcoming 2015 Wimberley Arts Fest. If approved, the signs will be set out the night before the event and picked up at the conclusion of the festival.

Councilmember White moved to approve the request, as presented. Councilmember Showalter seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

5. City Council Reports

- Announcements
- Future Agenda Items

City Administrator Ferguson announced that Hays County Precinct Three Commissioner Will Conley has contacted the City to request support for helping to secure an alternate interim water

supply for the City of Buda. He advised that a resolution of such support may be placed on a future Council agenda for consideration.

Councilmember White commented on the new rules in effect for visitors to Jacob's Well controlling access to the swimming area, including capacity limits and entrance fees.

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

Adjournment: Council meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Recorded by:


Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 16th of April, 2015.



APPROVED:


Steve Thurber, Mayor