

City of Wimberley
City Hall
221 Stillwater
Wimberley, Texas 78676
Minutes of Regular Meeting of City Council
July 5, 2012 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 Mac McCullough, Matt Meeks, Steve Thurber, and John White. Councilmember Tom Talcott was absent.

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

Citizens Communications

No citizen communications were heard.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of June 21, 2012
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Special City Council meeting of June 23, 2012
- C. Approval of the minutes of the Special City Council meeting of June 28, 2012
- D. Approval of the appointment of Lance Cawley to the City of Wimberley Planning and Zoning Commission. *(Place Three Councilmember Matt Meeks' nominee)*

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve all Consent Agenda items, as presented. Councilmember Meeks seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

2. City Administrator Report

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

City Administrator Ferguson reported on strong attendance figures for the Park's swimming area, with season pass sales running ahead of last year. More use of the upper recreational part of the Park has been observed, especially during periods when capacity is exceeded for the swimming area. He reported on the progress to activate the Park's onsite well and on soccer field irrigation. On June 24th, Bill and Kate Johnson of the Burdine Johnson Foundation were recognized for their Foundation's generous contribution to the Park at an event held by Friends of Blue Hole. Appreciation was also expressed to Scott Johnson and family for their attendance at the event.

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

City Administrator Ferguson reported that the fence installation around the drain field is complete. He noted that supplemental information is being submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) relating to improvement of the City's project ranking and reported on feasibility study progress, including an interim briefing to be held next week.

- Status report on the Mill Race Lane Improvement Project

City Administrator Ferguson reported that a temporary restraining order is in place and that execution of the agreement with the contractor is on hold at this time.

- Status report on the Flite Acres Road Anti-Trespassing Program

City Administrator Ferguson anticipated installation of signage in the next ten (10) days and reported that meetings with the property owners are being scheduled. The subject area is currently being patrolled by the City Marshal and Hays County Sheriff's deputies.

It was also noted that Hays County has reinstated a burn ban effective on July 5, 2012. Mayor Flocke and City Administrator Ferguson reported positive feedback on the City's community notification system, which was most recently used to inform the public of July 4th parade-related street closures.

3. Presentations

- A. Presentation of a status report on the activities of the Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC). (*Tessa Doehrman, PEC community and Economic Development Representative*)

City Administrator Ferguson reported that Tessa Doehrman has requested continuance of her presentation until Council's meeting on August 2, 2012.

- B. Presentation of a status report on the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2013 City of Wimberley Operating Budget. (*Rick Millinor, Wimberley Budget Advisory Board*)

In the absence of Budget Advisory Board Chair Rick Millinor, City Administrator Ferguson reported that the Board will be meeting next week to consider recommendations from the public and City staff on the Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget. There was brief discussion of turnout by citizens for both of the public meetings previously held by the Budget Advisory Board.

4. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the potential involvement of the City of Wimberley in the future development and operation of a Wimberley cemetery. (*City Administrator*)

Wimberley Cemetery Association representative Carmen Polhemus presented information on cemetery maintenance and start-up costs, including four (4) years of financial statements, burial statistics, lot sizes/pricing, possible cash flow, and land acquisition/clearing costs.

Discussion among Council, cemetery representatives, and staff addressed:

- Potential sites for cemetery expansion and associated problems with specific sites
- Limitations on types of uses allowed for certain City-owned, grant-funded properties, such as Blue Hole Regional Park
- Lack of statutory obligation for cities to provide cemetery services
- The City's inability to own and operate a cemetery located outside city limits
- Details on cremation burials
- Formation of another non-profit association to acquire land for future cemetery space
- Positions/levels of support among Council members for City ownership/operation of a cemetery
- Commitment of the City to work with the Wimberley Cemetery Association in its efforts to acquire additional land
- City's budget constraints relating to the costs of owning and operating a cemetery

Councilmember Thurber moved that the City does not enter into the cemetery business, regardless of any possible future locations, because the City does not have the facilities and wherewithal for such an operation. Councilmember McCullough asked if Councilmember Thurber would accept a friendly amendment to his motion. Councilmember Thurber advised that the motion has not been seconded. Councilmember McCullough seconded and stated that he wanted to keep the door open "if there's a deal out there." Mayor Flocke reminded that any of Council's actions are subject to change by future Councils. Councilmember McCullough acknowledged Mayor Flocke's statement, then withdrew his second to Councilmember Thurber's motion. Motion died for lack of a second.

Subsequent discussion addressed:

- Possible assistance from Hays County in cemetery land acquisition/operation efforts
- Types of cemeteries and associated regulations
- Survey results of small cities (comparable in population size to Wimberley) showing that very few of those surveyed own and operate cemeteries

Councilmember Thurber moved that the City does not approve owning and operating a cemetery on any public land. Councilmember McCullough seconded. Mayor Flocke called for a vote as follows: Councilmember White, aye; Councilmember Thurber, aye; Councilmember Meeks, nay; Councilmember McCullough, aye. Motion carried on a vote of 3-1.

Brief discussion after the vote established that Council does not need to make a separate declaration regarding the unavailability of Blue Hole Regional Park land for possible cemetery use.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action waiving the City of Wimberley building permit fees for the Wimberley ISD relating to the construction of a pole barn at Texan Stadium. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson described the construction project and recommended waiving \$111 in City building permit fees for the subject project. He noted that \$195 in plan review/inspection fees are pass-through fees paid to the City contract building inspection firm and are not included in the waiver request.

Councilmember McCullough moved to approve the waiver, as presented, and cited strong support for a prior waiver approved by Council for EmilyAnn Theatre. Councilmember Thurber seconded and commented that the subject WISD waiver is different from the EmilyAnn Theatre waiver due to WISD's status as a publicly-funded governmental entity with taxing authority, which poses the issue of double taxation. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

- C. Discuss and consider possible action on Fiscal Year 2013 goals and priorities for the City of Wimberley. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson read the following list of goals and priorities agreed on at Council's workshop meeting held June 23, 2012:

1. Develop sewer system on the Wimberley Square
2. Develop and secure alternate water supplies for Wimberley
3. Acquire and install a lighted information sign
4. Development of a sidewalk on FM 2325 from the "Y" Park to Wimberley High School
5. Implement a wayfinding signage program
6. Develop a capital improvements program (CIP) and CIP Funding (*Drainage, Street Lighting, Sidewalks*)
7. Complete development of the Regional Hike and Bike Trail
8. Maintain citizen involvement
9. Develop the "Y" Park in partnership with adjacent business
10. Implement a community radio station
11. Initiate an underground utility program on the Wimberley Square
- 12.(a) Development of a Master Plan for Wimberley Square
- 12.(b) Initiate work on the development of a Community Development Master Plan
- 12.(c) Implement a historic preservation and awareness Program
13. Acquire Oak Drive property for enhanced public access/restroom location

Discussion agreed to use the term "Central Business District," rather than the term "Square," throughout the list.

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented, including changing the term "Square" to "Central Business District" throughout the list. Councilmember McCullough seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

- D. Discuss and consider possible action on a proposal to designate the consensus position on the Wimberley parks and Recreation Board as a position to be held by a representative of the Friends of Blue Hole. (*Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*)

City Administrator Ferguson reported on the Parks Board's unanimous June 20th recommendation to designate the consensus position on the Board as a representative position for the Friends of Blue Hole. The term of the consensus member would run concurrently with that of the mayor. It was noted that it is not uncommon for park foundations/user groups to have representatives on municipal park advisory boards.

Councilmember White moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember Thurber seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

- E. Discuss and consider possible action authorizing the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$17,500 from the General Fund balance to the Blue Hole Operating Fund to fund a portion of the cost of activating an existing water well on the site of the Blue Hole Regional Park and amending the Fiscal Year 2012 General Fund Budget to reflect the transfer. (*Place Four Councilmember Steve Thurber*)

Councilmember Thurber noted that the subject well may serve a purpose other than Park uses in the future and felt that one-half of the funding for the well project could come from the City's General Fund. Discussion addressed progress on the well project to date. Councilmember Thurber restated his motion and included clarification that one-half of the total project cost is to be paid from the City's General Fund, in an amount not to exceed \$17,500. Councilmember White seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5. City Council Reports

- Announcements
- Future Agenda Items

City Administrator Ferguson announced that a date for a joint Council/Wimberley Central Improvement Area meeting relating to possible downtown wastewater service will be scheduled in the next two (2) weeks.

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

Adjournment: Council meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Recorded by:


Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 19th of July, 2012.



APPROVED:

Bob Flocke

Bob Flocke, Mayor