

City of Wimberley
City Hall
221 Stillwater
Wimberley, Texas 78676
Minutes of Regular Meeting of City Council
October 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-tem John D. White.

Mayor Pro-tem White gave the Invocation and Councilmembers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

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

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

Citizens Communications

Wimberley Independent School District (WISD) Superintendent Dwain York provided details on the recently negotiated sale of the Bowen School property. He explained that WISD was unable to release information on the sale during negotiations and thanked everyone for their patience. He believed that the sale will be advantageous for WISD and the entire community and reminded that WISD Board decisions are based on what is best for students and for our community. Mr. York stated that a meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 22nd with City Administrator Ferguson and HEB representatives. He spoke on misinformation regarding a recently concluded television production, which was shot at the Bowen School site and said the production provided a valuable learning experience for both WISD and Katherine Anne Porter School students. Mr. York stated that HEB's offered price for the Bowen School property will allow WISD to purchase land, as well as to relocate and rebuild. He said that details remain to be worked out with HEB on Bowen School's demolition and that none of the sale's proceeds are going toward WISD's so-called "Robin Hood" payments recaptured by the State of Texas school finance system. Mr. York thanked the Scudder Family for its generous donation of the Bowen property and support of public education over many years.

Proclamation

A proclamation of the City of Wimberley, Texas proclaiming the week of October 19-26, 2013 as *Red Ribbon Week*.

Mayor Pro-tem White presented the proclamation to Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Board Member Jennifer Bowden, who thanked Council and invited everyone to participate in the 13th Red Ribbon Run at the San Marcos Area Youth Soccer Organization Fields at Five Mile Dam Park.

1. Consent Agenda

Approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of October 3, 2013

Councilmember Thurber 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 on the stakeholder committee meetings held to date and advised that Robert Laughman of Aqua Texas has been invited to attend the next committee meeting on October 22, 2013. He noted that all committee meetings are recorded and anticipated the final stakeholder meeting to be held on November 22, 2013. Discussion addressed facilitator involvement/leadership and the need to adhere to the final meeting deadline of November 22nd. It was noted that the committee may hold additional meetings as it deems necessary within the established timeframe for completion. City Administrator Ferguson reminded that the committee is an advisory body, with Council to make the final decision on the committee's recommendation. Discussion established that there is no designated chair for the committee and that all conflict of interest statements have been signed and submitted by committee members and consultants.

- Status report on Cypress Creek water quality issues

City Administrator Ferguson advised that there are no new issues to report.

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

City Administrator Ferguson reported on receipt of the October check (representing August collections) in the amount of \$45,918.85, up eight percent (8%) from the same period last year.

- Status report on the recent sale of the Bowen School property

City Administrator Ferguson reported that a meeting is scheduled with HEB representatives on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 to discuss Wimberley Planned Development District (WPDD) regulations. Discussion addressed WISD Superintendent York's planned attendance at the aforementioned meeting, WPDD procedures, and the need for any future development to adhere to the City's Comprehensive Plan and Code requirements.

- Status report on the implementation of the emergency information website – www.HaysCountyInformed.com

City Administrator Ferguson reported on the newly developed and implemented website designed to serve as a central point of communication for items of public interest or for emergency management, such as road closures due to accidents or flooding. It was noted that the

correct web address for this site is: www.haysinformed.com and that frequently updated content is available via the website's RSS feed.

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

City Administrator Ferguson introduced Lauren Shrum, who has been hired as the new Park manager. He highlighted Ms. Shrum's education and professional experience.

Ms. Shrum greeted Council and provided information on her personal and professional background and qualifications, including details on specific previous projects and consulting work. She spoke on engaging master naturalists/gardeners and community youth as part of her future endeavors to further develop and market the Park. City Administrator Ferguson advised that Ms. Shrum has notable fundraising skills, which should help the Park remain self-funded for as long as possible. Ms. Shrum is also active in parks and recreation associations at both state and national levels.

3. Presentation

Presentation by representatives of the Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) regarding planned improvements to the electrical transmission line in the Wimberley area. (*Pedernales Electric Cooperative District Manager Bob di Fonzo*)

PEC Senior Director of Engineering Robert Peterson introduced Director of System Engineering Paul Lochte, Manager of Substation and Transmission Design Tony Perez, and Schneider Engineering Principal Lance Pettigrew (PEC District Manager Bob di Fonzo was unable to attend). Mr. Peterson gave a presentation illustrating the need to upgrade transmission lines, PEC's coverage area, electrical system overview diagram, area transmission/distribution sources, and Wimberley area loads. He cited long-term concerns and reasoning for upgrading existing lines to help avoid and/or minimize outages. Mr. Peterson stressed that this upgrade project will occur over a long period of time, with lots of opportunities for public input. He provided statistics on projected capacity on existing transformers and information on maximizing efficiency of distribution feeders, with the project's goal to increase capacity far into the future. Mr. Peterson noted that project design work and surveying have not begun and stated that tonight's presentation is the first step in a very long process that will involve a lot of public input.

Lance Pettigrew spoke on the proposed transmission project to rebuild the existing line in place along the same route that exists today, load projections, and planned interim measures to avoid service interruptions during the rebuilding phase. He highlighted specific phases of the project, including preliminary engineering/concept design, compilation of property ownership/easement data, property owner notification, mobilization of survey crews, finalization of engineering work, and commencement of construction. He noted that all efforts will be made to complete the project with minimal impact to the community.

Discussion addressed cutting of trees, types of pole materials, impact of project on customer rates, upgrade of existing lines, right-of-way acquisition, and transfer of loads to avoid project-related outages.

4. Ordinance

Consider approval of the first reading of an ordinance amending Title XIII (General Offenses), Chapter 130 (General Offenses), Section 130.03 (Discharge of Firearms Prohibited; Exceptions) of the City of Wimberley's Code of Ordinances to regulate the discharge of a bow and arrow within the city limits; and providing findings of fact, a repealing clause, a savings and severability clause; providing for an effective date; and proper notice and meeting. *(City Administrator)*

At Mayor Flocke's request, Mayor Pro-tem White asked that Council consider continuance of this item its November 7th meeting.

Councilmember Thurber moved to continue this item until Council's meeting on November 7, 2013. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

5. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action approving the Fiscal Year 2014 Holiday Schedule for the City of Wimberley. *(City Administrator)*

City Administrator Ferguson presented the following schedule:

Veterans Day	Monday, November 11, 2013
Thanksgiving	Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29, 2013
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24, 2013
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, 2013
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2014
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 20, 2014
President's Day	Monday, February 17, 2014
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2014
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2014
Independence Day	Friday, Jul 4, 2014
Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2014

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember Meeks seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action authorizing the use of City of Wimberley right-of-way for the placement of directional signage for the Wimberley Civic Club's *Hill Country Home Tour* on November 8th and 9th. *(City Administrator)*

City Administrator Ferguson recommended approval of the request to place small directional signs at certain intersections the day before the event. The signage, if approved, would be in place for two (2) days.

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

C. Discuss and consider possible action on concerns relating to the recent use of the Bowen School site for a television production. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson noted certain problems encountered during the recent use of the Bowen School site as a location for an episode of the NBC television series "Revolution," with most complaints related to road closures and nighttime production lighting. He advised that those in charge of the production have apologized for any previous lack of communication and inconvenience caused during shooting and have assured such a lapse will not occur in the future. City Administrator Ferguson advised that producers have indicated crews will not need to return in November to finish shooting. He noted the benefits of such productions to the community and stated that the City works closely with the Texas Film Commission to attract commercial, television, and movie productions to Wimberley.

Discussion among Council, WISD Superintendent Dwain York, and City Administrator Ferguson addressed lack of advance communication with the City on production plans, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) approval of road closures, learning experience afforded WISD/Katherine Anne Porter School students, benefits to the community, episode's air date, public health, safety, and welfare issues, and clean up of the production site.

No action was taken.

D. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to increase the daily admission fees to the swimming area of the Blue Hole Regional Park. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson presented the Parks and Recreation Board's recommendation to increase the daily admission fee for adults from \$8 to \$9, and for youths from \$4 to \$5. He noted that no increases are proposed for bulk admission (season passes, 10-punch cards, etc.), as those fees were increased last year. Reasoning was provided for the increased fees, including the need to keep the Park self-funded for as long as possible and to help manage the number of visitors to the popular swimming area.

Discussion addressed maintaining the Park as a self-funded facility for as long as possible, competitiveness of rates when compared with similar parks, and the Parks Board 3-2 vote on the recommendation to increase admission fees.

Councilmember Thurber moved to approve the item, as presented. Councilmember McCullough seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

E. Discuss and consider possible action regarding a proposal to establish a commercial photography fee for the Blue Hole Regional Park. (*City Administrator*)

City Administrator Ferguson requested that Council continue this item until its November 21st meeting to allow the Parks and Recreation Board to consider the proposal and make a recommendation to Council.

Councilmember Thurber moved to continue this item until Council’s meeting on November 21, 2013. Councilmember Talcott seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

6. City Council Reports

- Announcements
- Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Thurber requested that the City expedite efforts to develop a master plan for the downtown area.

City Administrator Ferguson stated an item will be on Council’s next agenda relating to an interlocal agreement with Hays County to participate in funding for the redesign of the intersection of Ranch Road 3237 and Ranch Road 12.

Hearing no further announcements or future agenda items, Mayor Pro-tem White called the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: Council meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

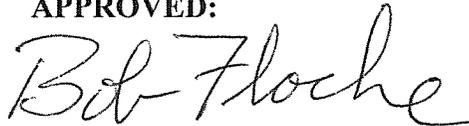
Recorded by:


 Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 7th of November, 2013.



APPROVED:



Bob Floche, Mayor