

**BELTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2012**

The Belton City Council met in regular session with the following members present: Mayor Jim Covington, Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson, Councilmembers Clifton Peters, David K. Leigh, Craig Pearson, and John Agan. Councilmember Wayne Carpenter was absent. Staff present were John Messer, Sam Listi, Connie Torres, Cristy Daniell, Les Hallbauer, Gene Ellis, Francisco Corona, Byron Sinclair, Erin Newcomer, Sarah Maddaford, Sandy Slade, Charlotte Walker, Denny Lassetter and Paul Romer.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag was led by Assistant City Manager Cristy Daniell, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag was led by Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson, and the Invocation was given by Mike Dunson of First Christian Church.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Public comments. There were no public comments.

Recognize the Finance Department for receipt of the Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year 2011 for the 26th year.

The City Manager indicated the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement Award for the 26th consecutive year. He explained this award is a recognition of distinction and an honor for the Belton City Council, management, and staff that the City's CAFR meets the national standards of excellence for reporting the City's finances. He recognized Assistant City Manager Cristy Daniell, Assistant Finance Director Karen Evans, and their team in the Finance Department, and presented the award to Ms. Daniell and Ms. Evans.

The Mayor recognized City Manager Sam A. Listi for 30 years of service to the International City/County Management Association, and presented him with a plaque honoring him for his service.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Grayson asked that the Memorandum of Agreement with Carothers-Dusek Development be pulled from the consent agenda. Councilmember Leigh made a motion to approve the remaining items. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Peters and the following items were unanimously approved:

Minutes of the previous meeting. Approved as presented.

Consider appointments to the following boards and commissions:

- A. Electrical Board – Reappointed Bill Barge and Jamie Sanderford to another two year term.
- B. Library Board – Reappointed Denzel Holmes to another three year term.
- C. Belton Economic Development Corporation Board – Reappointed Joe Sheperd to another three year term.

Consider authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Belton and Regatta Ridge Limited Partnership regarding Regatta Oaks Subdivision, Phase II, Section III final plat, relating to compliance with Development Agreement dated March 25, 2004.

Approved the Memorandum of Agreement with Regatta Ridge Limited Partnership, that binds all parties until the Hike and Bike Trail design, construction and

dedication requirement is resolved and the trail is completed, as outlined in the original 2004 Development Agreement with the developers.

Consider authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with KPA Engineers for professional services required to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report for Sparta Road, from Loop 121 to Main Street in the northwest central sector of the City.

Approved the contract with KPA Engineers to provide preliminary engineering services associated with design for the widening of Sparta Road from Loop 121 to SH 317 (Main Street). It is timely to plan for future widening of Sparta Road due to increased traffic in one of Belton's prime retail areas suggests. Design cost was included in the FY 2012 Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) budget at \$50,000, and these funds have been transferred into the TIRZ Capital Projects fund, since this design project will occur in FY 2013.

Consider authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with KPA Engineers for professional services required to develop plans to relocate/adjust water and wastewater infrastructure due to the widening of SH 317 from FM 439 north to just south of the Leon River.

Approved the contract with KPA Engineers to provide field surveying and design services associated with City utility relocation for the widening of SH 317 from FM 439 northward to near the Leon River. TxDOT recently announced funds are available to widen SH 317 (Main Street) north of FM 439 to address increased traffic flow. The City is responsible for relocating its water and wastewater lines that conflict with the project. Neither the proposed design costs of \$40,470, nor the unknown utility project construction costs (estimated at \$200,000) are budgeted, but staff believes it is important for the City to take this opportunity to secure a widened SH 317 where it is so critically needed, given available TxDOT funds.

KPA's proposal includes Part A (\$40,470) and an optional Part B which would add \$38,950 to the design costs and provide for an ultimate 12" water line extension northward along SH 317 at an estimated cost of over \$300,000. Part A is the minimum scope required which would make needed adjustments in water and sewer utility lines, and make provisions for future utility line crossings across SH 317. After consultation with KPA Engineers and City staff, Part B is being deferred until needed in the future. This contract will be funded from funds left in the 2007 Water and Sewer CO's, and construction cost will be determined as part of this project and will be presented to Council for determination of a funding source when known.

Miscellaneous

Consider authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Belton and Carothers-Dusek Development, LLC regarding Dawson Ranch Phase II, Section III final plat, relating to compliance with Development Agreement dated March 25, 2004.

Mayor Pro Tem Grayson announced she would abstain from this item, as her son works for the developer.

Planning Director Erin Newcomer explained a 2004 Development Agreement with the original developer of Smith/Dawson Ranch Properties (Carroll Sullivan/Jim Hightower), envisioned dedication and improvement of the area along the 100' Atmos gas pipeline easement that generally parallels Chisholm Trail Parkway, as an improved Hike and Bike Trail. Two issues have complicated built improvements along the pipeline recently – Atmos has over allowed improvements (vegetation) within and along the gas pipeline which will require reconsideration of landscaping design and final trail improvements; the original developer sold off property generally south of the pipeline, and Carothers/Dusek has gotten ahead of development of the trail improvements adjacent to their property. Ms. Newcomer stated staff is continuing coordination with the developers and Atmos, and currently awaiting plans for the trail. She recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement. Councilmember Agan made a motion to authorize the agreement as stated. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leigh and carried by a vote of 5-0-1, with Mayor Pro Tem Grayson abstaining.

Receive presentation of Police Department Facility Needs Assessment Study.

The City Manager stated this item emerged from the 2008 ICMA report on police operations which identified the need to address deficiencies in the current police facility, and was later adopted by the Council as part of the Police Department's Strategic Plan. He introduced Police Chief Gene Ellis who explained a facility needs assessment study was budgeted in FY 2012, and an RFQ was prepared to solicit firms interested in performing the study. Dewberry, an engineering and architectural firm, was selected and spent approximately six months analyzing needs, interviewing staff, reviewing the current police facility, and studying Belton's present and future demographics. Chief Ellis introduced Don Wertzberger and Christopher Mueller of Dewberry, and Mr. Wertzberger presented the results of the Belton Police Department Facility Needs Assessment Study.

Councilmember Peters asked what other police stations Dewberry has worked on, and Mr. Wertzberger indicated they have worked with the Cities of Killeen, Deer Park, Saginaw, Euless, Coppell, and the Downtown Dallas police headquarters. He stated the firm has worked on projects as small as 3,000 sq. ft., up to 365,000 sq. ft., but most have been in the 27,000-37,000 sq. ft. size, which is what many communities seem to be gravitating toward. Councilmember Leigh stated the City has been looking at this for a long time, and due to the growing needs of the City, he believes it's a matter of when, not if, and he hopes the community will support it. The Mayor commented he believes this item will eventually be considered as part of a CIP Committee project. Mr. Listi thanked Mr. Wertzberger and his team at Dewberry, along with the Police Department and City staff, for their work on the report. No action was needed at this time.

Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to take all steps necessary to support the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program funding for the Chisholm Trail Corridor Hike and Bike Facility along Ninth Avenue, from Loop 121 to University Drive, and committing to the project's development, implementation, construction, maintenance, management, and financing.

The City Manager indicated staff is proposing submission of a TE application for the Chisholm Trail Corridor Hike/Bike Facility, which would fund sidewalks and bike lanes along Ninth Avenue, from Loop 121 to University Drive. The program would provide 80% federal funding (administered by TxDOT), with a 20% local match required. Mr. Listi explained a substantial portion of the Ninth Avenue project would be eligible as a part of this project; it would also complement the Nolan Creek Hike/Bike Trail Phase 1 (existing), and Phase 2 crossing Nolan Creek (funded, 60% designed, to be built in 2013/14). He stated this third phase will provide continuity/connectivity from IH-35 to Loop 121, with this segment totaling 2,950' (0.6 mile in length). Mr. Listi showed drawings of the proposed project location and connection/linkages to the trail system.

The City Manager indicated TxDOT has encouraged the City to apply for these funds, and gave an overview of the linkages that make this application competitive (transportation system, bike/trail, park, and community facilities). Mr. Listi stated the application is due by November 16th, and the resolution would commit the City to a project scope totaling a maximum \$1,569,750, with 80% TE funding, a maximum \$1,255,800. The City's 20% local match would amount to \$313,950 as scoped. The City would be required to build the sidewalks and bike lanes within four years of approval (Fall 2017), along with the commitment to complete the adjacent Ninth Avenue Project from Loop 121 to University Drive. Mr. Listi stated if funded, the City will have until late 2013 or early 2014, to make a final decision on accepting/rejecting the TE funds. Given the close relationship of this proposal to the Parks Master Plan, this item was presented to the Parks Board which recommended approval at its meeting on November 5th. Mr. Listi recommended approval of the resolution of support, including authorizing the City Manager to take all steps associated with TE fund application to TxDOT.

Councilmember Leigh asked if TxDOT would participate in the hike/bike trail or access along Loop 121, if this project is tied to Loop 121. Mr. Listi replied one requirement for funding is consistency with the regional bike and thoroughfare plan, and this project is consistent with the City's local plan and the KTMO plan approved by the region. There is a strong linkage to continuation of the trail, with a plan to eventually take the trail up Loop 121, out FM 439, and on to the Corps of Engineers park and westward, with neighboring cities providing components for the different segments that could ultimately tie together in a long-term vision.

Councilmember Agan stated given the City's limited resources, he thinks this project makes good sense, as the City has to partner with other entities and seek financial help from other sources in order to accomplish big projects. In addition, this application doesn't obligate the City to spend funds without being able to complete the Ninth Avenue project, given that the entire funding for that project is currently not available, but allows the City 15 months to determine where it stands. With \$4.0M still needed to complete the Ninth Avenue project, this \$1.0M funding would help get the City even closer to funding the entire project. The Mayor agreed, stating Belton struggles with 29% of its property being exempt from ad valorem taxes. Councilmember Leigh stated the City has been fortunate that those tax exempt entities have always been supportive of the City's projects, and assist or contribute in various ways. Councilmember Pearson expressed appreciation to City staff for its work to get these projects down to the bare necessities, but done correctly and in phases when possible, without increasing taxes.

Mayor Pro Tem Grayson made a motion to approve the resolution as recommended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pearson, and the following captioned resolution was unanimously approved:

**CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS
FUNDING RESOLUTION
CHISHOLM TRAIL CORRIDOR HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL FACILITY
RESOLUTION NO. 2012-20**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, TO CERTIFY FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE 2012 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM NOMINATION WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE APPLICATION TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT THE CHISHOLM TRAIL CORRIDOR HIKE AND BIKE FACILITY.

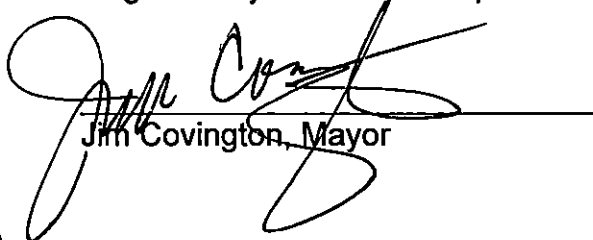
Consider approval of funding an ambulance equipped with a battery operated stretcher through the Greathouse Trust Fund.

Fire Chief Francisco Corona explained the Belton Fire Department provides EMS services with two frontline ambulances and one reserve ambulance to the citizens of Belton and parts of Bell County. He gave an overview of the current ambulance fleet, mileage and features of each. Chief Corona indicated when Belton's ambulance fleet is unavailable, Scott & White Medical Transport Services (SWMTS) is called to assist. It is estimated that SWMTS will transport 25 EMS calls in 2013, and while not a huge number of transports, current fleet mileage, age, and mechanical condition may put Belton citizens at risk of an unavailable response under current conditions. The Chief stated in addition, the 2011 ICMA study recommended that BFD consider a five-year ambulance replacement program. Based on the Department's internal analysis, the upward trend on the number of EMS transports, plus the high mileage driven by the EMS fleet, the Chief stated he is recommending maintaining a four-year cycle, which means it is time to replace the 2008 ambulance, and rotate it to reserve status. The Chief added this request also includes the purchase of a second battery operated stretcher, resulting in one for each front-line ambulance. Results have shown that this device improves patient care, and reduces the risk of firefighter injury. Chief Corona requested Council consideration to purchase a Frazer ambulance (\$133,625), with a battery operated stretcher (\$11,427). The City Manager stated the total amount of \$145,052 is proposed for funding through the Greathouse Trust Fund, and the Trust met prior to this meeting and recommended approval. He stated if approved, the Department would order the stretcher now, and the ambulance would take about six months for delivery. He recommended approval.

Councilmember Peters asked if the Frazer ambulance meets the needs of the Department, and Chief Corona indicated he developed a Committee who concluded the Frazer ambulances meet the Department's needs and would make the entire fleet alike. The Committee also recommended staying with gasoline (as opposed to diesel), since repairs have been minimal on the Frazer ambulances. Councilmember Peters asked if Scott & White would keep an ambulance at its new clinic under construction in the Belton Business Park, and the Chief had no knowledge, but the Mayor stated he didn't think an ambulance is normally kept at a clinic. Mayor Pro Tem Grayson highly recommended the battery operated stretcher after having seen a demonstration earlier in the Greathouse Trust meeting.

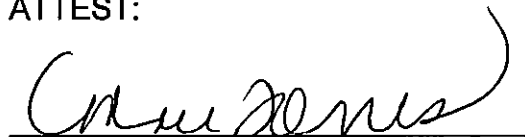
Councilmember Peters made a motion to approve the purchase of the ambulance and stretcher as recommended, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Grayson. Prior to the vote, Mayor Covington read a biography of Zora Lee Greathouse, the woman who left \$117,256 to the City of Belton Ambulance Service following her death in 1989. (The City has purchased 5-6 ambulances through this Trust Fund, which has been used as a revolving loan fund.) Based on recommendation from Trustee John Messer, who stated he believes Mrs. Greathouse is the only person who has ever given the City money, the Mayor directed staff to come up with a way to recognize Mrs. Greathouse for her contribution to the City. A vote on the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor introduced Paul Romer, the City's new Public Information Officer. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Connie Torres, City Clerk