

CITY OF CONVERSE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2010
7:00 PM

The City Council of the City of Converse met in a regular meeting at the Converse Municipal Complex on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 7:00 PM to discuss various items on the agenda. The following were present:

Mayor Al Suarez	MPT John Shadron, Place 3
Council Member Renee Paschall, Place 1	Council Member Grant Lopez, Place 2
Council Member Randy Pannell, Place 4	Council Member Steve Brown, Place 6
Ms. Robin Benbrook, Place 5	Mr. Sam Hughes, City Manager
Mr. John Quintanilla, Assist. City Manager	Mr. Rick Jamison, Chief of Police
Mr. Jerry Wilson, Finance Director	Mr. Mark Luft, EDC Executive Director
Mr. Paul Bocconcelli, Police Sergeant	Mr. Kie Sagan, Instruction Technician
Ms. Judy Gutierrez, Administrative Secretary	Mr. Ray Ortiz, City Attorney (Arrived @ 7:15 PM)
Ms. Penny Hieronymus, City Secretary	

1. Call to Order

At approximately 7:00 PM, Mayor Suarez called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

Pastor Jesse Aguilar, Converse Hispanic Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: To the U.S. Flag led by Mayor Suarez
To the Texas Flag led by Mayor Pro Tem Shadron

Mayor Suarez led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

MPT Shadron led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

4. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors

Mayor Suarez stated all Council members are present.

Mayor Suarez recognized JISD Board member, Mr. Arnold Salinas.

5. Consent Agenda. All Of The Following Items May Be Acted Upon By One Motion. No Separate Discussion Or Action On Any Of The Items Is Necessary Unless Desired By A Council Member
 - A. Action to Approve City Council Minutes for Meeting Conducted on June 1, 2010
 - B. Receive Economic Development Corporation Minutes for Meeting Conducted on May 11, 2010
 - C. Action to Approve the Financial Reports for April 2010
 - D. Action to Approve the Investment Report as of April 30, 2010
 - E. Action to Approve City of Converse Ordinance # 401; an Ordinance Regulating Vehicular Speed Limits on the Thoroughfares of the City of Converse; Establishing School Zones; Establishing Stops or Yield of Right-of-Way Required by Vehicular Traffic Prior to Entering Certain Intersections in the Interest of Public Safety; Establishing Prohibited Turns; Establishing One-Way Streets; Establishing Prohibited Parking Zones; Providing a Penalty of Not More Than \$200.00 for Any Person Who Shall be Convicted of Violating Any Terms of This Ordinance; Assigning Responsibilities and Superseding All Prior Ordinances in Conflict (Second Reading) (City Managers

Member Brown pulled agenda item #5 A.

Council member Pannell made a motion to approve agenda item #5 B - E. Council member Paschall seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Agenda item #5 A:

Member Brown noted some corrections:

*Page 7 = Mr. Alex Saucedo

*Page 10 = Congratulated the 3 new CC members

Member Lopez noted spelling corrections:

*Page 1 & 3 = Honorable Judge Renee McElhaney of the 73rd District Court

Council member Paschall made a motion to approve agenda item #5 A, with the corrections noted. Council member Brown seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. Special Consideration Items
 - A. Recognition of Sergeant Paul Bocconcelli, for More Than 15 Years Service to the City of Converse Police Department (Mayor Suarez)

Mayor Suarez presented Sgt. Bocconcelli with a Certificate of Appreciation & a City coin.

Sgt. Bocconcelli publically thanked his wife, CC & the City for their support & acknowledging his 15 years with the Dept.

7. Citizens to be Heard. This time is provided for Citizens to address City Council on any issues and concerns. No City Council discussion or action can be taken if the item is not on the agenda. Please limit your remarks to three (3) minutes and state your name and address for the record. No personal attacks shall be allowed.

-Ms. Miranda Muzina will speak on item #10 C.

-Ms. Sarah Salazar of Sassy Styles, 115 School Street stated the sidewalk is finished, looks good & she is happy. We just need to red line it as a “no parking”.

8. Public Hearings

- A. None

Mayor Suarez stated there were no Public Hearings.

9. Old Business

- A. None

Mayor Suarez stated there was no Old Business.

10. New Business

- A. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Appoint Ms. Robin Benbrook, 302 Avenue A, to City Council Place 5, for the Remainder of the Term in Accordance with Section 2.04, Paragraph B, of the City of Converse Home Rule Charter (Mayor Suarez)

Mayor Suarez stated CC Place 5 became available upon the resignation of Council member Jon Lindgren.

Mayor Suarez stated he did support Ms. Benbrook in 2007 & prior to that she was a very active citizen. He recommends that CC support Ms. Benbrook who is willing to serve.

MPT Shadron made a motion to approve agenda item #10 A. Member Lopez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- B. Acton to Swear in New City Council Member by Mayor Suarez

Mayor Suarez swore in Council member Benbrook.

Council member Benbrook thanked the CC for their support. She has a great affinity & affection for this community & the people. On Jan. 31, 2010, Her house burned on Jan. 31, 2010 - many people came to her aid, which was overwhelming. The EMS/Fire Dept. & Police Dept. were incredible. She thanked everyone.

*At approximately 7:15 PM, Mr. Ortiz arrived.

- C. Briefing by Ms. Miranda Muzina on the Program in the National Children Study – Bexar County, Division of Endocrinology & Diabetes (Ms. Muzina)

Ms. Muzina had a short presentation & briefed on the UT Health Science Center of SA – The National Children’s Study (NCS) – examining the effects of environmental influences on the health & dev. of more than 100,000 children across the US following them before birth until age 21 yrs. The study takes a number of issues into account: For more information:

E-mail: NCS@mail.nih.gov Internet: <http://www.nationalchildrenstudy.gov>
Mail: 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 5C01, Rockville, MD, 20892-7510
Phone: 301/594-9147 Fax: 301/480-1222.

- D. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve the Bexar Appraisal District Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (Mr. Michael A. Amezcua, Chief Appraiser)

Mr. Hughes stated the Bexar Appraisal District (BAD) is required to provide a copy of their budget to all of the supporting public entities for review & approval; in reviewing this it appears to be pretty straight forward, our share of their budget on an annual basis is \$23,375. Recommends approval.

Council member Pannell made a motion to approve agenda item #10 D. Council member Paschall seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- E. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve City of Converse Ordinance #623; a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (First Reading) (City Manager)

Mr. Hughes, also the Flood Plain Administrator, stated in order for our citizens in & around flood plains to get flood insurance we need to have a Flood Damage Prevention Program & this Ord. establishes that. This Ord. is a renewal & we have recently completed a new FEMA study & the maps are out; where we disagree it looks like Bexar Co. & SA River Authority (SARA) have geared up some flood mitigation projects to solve that problem. This goes into effect Sept. 30, 2010 with CC's approval & we will meet the Charter requirements. He thinks we are in excellent condition to handle storm water management. The City has a person that watches after this. The appeal Board in this Ord. is the Council. Recommends approval.

Mayor Suarez stated he sits on the Bexar Co. Water Shed Committee & they did approve a \$700,000 project to address the flood issues on Flatland Trail. He is optimistic that the Commissioner's Court will approve this.

MPT Shadron made a motion to approve agenda item #10 E. Council member Paschall seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

*At approximately 7:47 PM, Mayor Suarez recessed to go into Executive Session.

*At approximately 7:52 PM, Mayor Suarez called the Executive Session to order.

- F. Executive Session in Accordance with Section 551.071, Texas Open Meetings Act, to Discuss Contemplated Litigation Against Don McCrary and Associates and R. L. Jones for Failures on the Toepperwein Road Project (City Manager)

Those present: Mayor Suarez, MPT Shadron, Council members: Benbrook, Brown, Lopez, Pannell & Paschall, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Quintanilla, Mr. Ortiz & Ms. Hieronymus.

*At approximately 8:07 PM, Mayor Suarez closed the Executive Session.

*At approximately 8:08 PM, Mayor Suarez called the meeting back to order.

- G. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve Authorization for the City Manager and City Attorney to Initiate Litigation Against Don McCrary and Associates and R.L. Jones for Failures on the Toepperwein Road Project (City Manager)

Mr. Hughes recommends approval.

Council member Pannell made a motion to approve agenda item #10 G. Council member Lopez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- 11. REPORTS: In consideration of Texas Attorney General Opinion AG-0668, information provided on subjects not on the agenda shall be limited to statements of specific factual information; or recitation of existing policy. Any deliberation of or decision about a subject not on the agenda shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

- A. Mayor's Report/Items of Interest

Mayor Suarez reported:

- Thanked Dr. Mackey of JISD for their recent football camp – big turnout, nice event
- “Buy Converse” campaign is off to a great start, receiving good feedback – thanked Mr. Luft & the EDC
- Art Show by Ms. Elena Castillo is picking up & getting more participation
- Tomorrow - NE Methodist Hospital is celebrating their 25th Anniversary at 10:30 AM – everyone is invited; they are placing a time capsule in the ground to be opened in 50 years; they have asked us to provide some small items for their time capsule
- He will meet with Mr. Hughes, Mr. Luft & St. Rep Joe Farias next week regarding the FM 1604 & FM 78 ramp; try to get this project back on board with TXDOT; more information to come
- NEP met Thurs., June 10 – they voted to provide 2 scholarships for the projects growth program for kids this summer at NE Lakeview College – good program from NE Lakeview
- Thanked & congratulated Detective Jeff Lowder for his outstanding efforts, we received a letter from SWAT Commander for an outstanding job he did on an incident, which happened in Live Oak – great reflection of the Converse Police Dept.

- B. Councilmember's Report/Items of Interest

Council member Paschall reported:

- Recognized the fine work of the Fire/EMS Dept. - she had an incident that happened at her home this past weekend – they were excellent in attending to their family members

Mayor Suarez stated that Mr. Hughes has an outstanding Fire/EMS & Police Dept.

- C. Boards/Commission Reports

- (1) Report and Discussion of Economic Development Corporation Meeting

Mr. Luft reported:

- Thanked the Council for their outstanding selection of new EDC Board members, who has demonstrated their willingness to work effectively immediately – going to go forward to the future
- Sponsored the “Buy Converse” campaign – positive feedback from everybody
- Council has nominated Mr. Quintanilla to the EDC

- Attended a mtg. today with some community leaders; it has been his desire to bring a program for leadership to this region; plan on doing a Steering Committee with the NEP for a 1 yr. program – Lakeview College will host
- EDC elected their President – Ms. Rhonda Payne & Vice President – Mr. Fernando Aranda
- Had Executive Session to update the new members on projects they are doing
- Received a letter today from Bx. Co. Dept. of Community Resources on application for PY 2010 CDBG & Home Funding
- EDC doing well
- Placid Park Phase 3 starts this week & should be finished in late Aug. 2010 – pending weather conditions

Mr. Quintanilla thanked CC for nominating him to the EDC Board of Directors. However, the closing of his home has been postponed until July 28, 2010. He will continue to attend the EDC mtgs., but at this time, he will not be a resident of Converse until July 28.

(2) Report and Discussion of Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

MPT Shadron reported:

- Met last night
- Discussed possible projects for the Eagle Scouts
- Discussed the use of community service workers
- Ms. Becky Johnson gave a brief discussion on mtg. held last month
- Discussed small type fund raising events
- Pool – eye catching

D. City Manager

(1) Report and Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Hughes reported:

- July 6 CC mtg. – 1st Reading of draft Ord. 630 - consolidates the Planning & Zoning Commissions
- Draft 1st reading - Ord. 632 - establishes a B&E Commission
- Update Ord. 620 – Building Code Ords.
- Mr. Wilson working on updating Ord. 714 – Water related Ord.

(2) Report and Discussion of Items of Interest

Mr. Hughes reported:

- Schaefer Rd. – scheduled for paving on June 30 – early July should wrap up this project
- Began construction on the Placid Park streets this week
- We have received the 30% design of the new Toepperwein Rd. – staff reviewing to make sure all is in order; will set up workshop for CC to see new Toepperwein Rd. design; once we get the design strategy we will sit down & have a workshop on funding & construction strategies; realistically, we don't believe there are MPO monies within the next 5 yrs. to help with this project

12. Adjournment

At approximately 8:20 PM, Mayor Suarez adjourned the meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6th DAY OF JULY, 2010.

Al Suarez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Adriana I. Hieronymus, City Secretary