

CITY OF CONVERSE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2010
7:00 PM

The City Council of the City of Converse met in a regular meeting at the Converse Municipal Complex on Tuesday, July 20, 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 Robin Benbrook, Place 5
Council Member Steve Brown, Place 6	Mr. Sam Hughes, City Manager
Mr. John Quintanilla, Assistant City Manager	Mr. Mr. Karl Hoppes, Director of Facilities
Mr. John Law, City Attorney	Ms. Penny Hieronymus, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

Assistant City Manager Mr. Quintanilla gave the invocation.

Mayor Suarez asked for a Moment of Silence in honor of Mr. Luft's mother, Rita who passed this past Sunday.

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 introduced & recognized Council & City staff.

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 July 6, 2010
- B. Receive Park and Recreation Commission Minutes for Meeting Conducted on June 14, 2010
- C. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve City of Converse Ordinance #630; An Ordinance to Establish and Regulate the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City Of Converse; And Superseding City Of Converse Ordinance #630 Dated February 3, 2009 and City of Converse Ordinance #631 Dated February 3, 2009 (Second Reading) (Mayor Suarez, Councilwoman Paschall and Councilman Brown)
- D. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve City of Converse Ordinance #632; An Ordinance to Establish a Beautification and Environmental Commission for the City of Converse to Promote Community Pride and Deter Property Depreciation; Conserve The Value Of Buildings And Land; And Preserve Natural Resources (Second Reading) (Mayor Suarez and Councilman Lopez)
- E. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve City of Converse Ordinance #602; An Ordinance to Establish and Regulate the Building and Standards Commission for the City Of Converse; Establishing Authority and Procedures; and Superseding City Of Converse Ordinance #602 Dated April 15, 2003 (Second Reading) (Councilman Pannell)

Council member Lopez asked to pull agenda item #5 D.

Council member Paschall asked to pull agenda item #5 B.

MPT Shadron made a motion to approve agenda items #5 A, C & E. Council member Pannell seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

-Agenda item #5 B: Council member Paschall stated she wanted to give recognition to liaison MPT Shadron & Chair Kathy Selko, she was very impressed with looking at the community projects they are discussion, along with painting the new restroom. She will reserve her other comments for item #10 D.

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

-Agenda item #5 D: Council member Lopez state on Page 2, Section 1 E, "shall meet on the fourth Monday" & on Page 4, Section 111 A, "shall meet on the fourth Tuesday". Should be: "shall meet on the **fourth** Monday".

Council member Lopez made a motion to approve the amendment for the B&E to meet on the **fourth** Monday. Council member Paschall seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. Special Consideration Items

- A. None

Mayor Suarez stated there were no Special Consideration Items.

- 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. Katherine Ohnesorge of 505 Gail Circle in the Converse Hills Subdivision stated she has been noticing quite a few of the homes have grass growing over the front curb & now in the streets. She hopes the B&E will keep them in mind.

-Ms. Gloria Weers of 104 Norris Drive West stated Mr. Quintanilla has done a wonderful job in cleaning up the City.

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. Briefing by Mr. Rex Brien, and Discussion of Judson Youth Sports Foundation Operations and Finances (Mayor Suarez)

Mr. Rex Brien briefed:

- They are wrapping up 2nd season of baseball & softball
- Had 28 teams this year
- All of the teams advanced at least 1 tournament
- Moving forward with football & cheerleading, start practice next Monday
- Economy affecting everybody – scholarship fund is completely exhausted
- Have some targeted fund-raising they are trying to do
- They made some changes in the way they take their registrations
- Expanded their Football/Cheerleading Board from 8 people to 12 people with 3 more at large = 15 people
- 18 People available for the Baseball/Softball
- Their Board of Directors who manage the organization has been expanded from 5 people to 9 people
- This year doing more of the community out-reach
- Explained the Terra-Genesis program, possibly incorporate through the JYSF & place in the City office, which gives people access to services

Ms. Jennifer White, Treasurer briefed:

- She will fax the report to City Hall from 2nd qtr. (June 30, 2009)
- Her laptop was stolen & it has been a process re-creating everything
- Have 3 accounts & 1 person managing them
- They do not owe anyone any money & have money in the bank

Mayor Suarez stated we would do the Finances the 2nd mtg. of August.

- B. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve City of Converse Ordinance #321; an Ordinance Establishing a Storm Water to be Collected from Each Utility Account within the City of Converse for the Purpose of Promoting Health, Safety, Morals, and the General Welfare of the City of Converse, Texas and Superseding Other Ordinances in Conflict (First Reading) (Assistant City Manager)

Mr. Quintanilla stated our Storm Water Ord. is more detailed & provides clear definitions as to what is & what is not allowed in our storm water areas. This will allow us to set up goals & objectives & establish projects to be completed under Ord. 321. We are raising the rates to \$.27 cents to establish maintenance repair & construction of our public storm water areas, facilities & drain ways, establish containment boxes for our materials & we have to have a car wash with sedimentation basins. This is a State Unfunded mandate. Recommend approval.

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

- C. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve the Milestone Schedule for the FY 2010-2011 Budget and Tax Rates to Include Conducting a Special City Council Meetings on August 24 and August 31, 2010, as well as Regular City Council Meetings on August 3, September 7, and September 23, 2010 (City Manager)

Mr. Hughes stated in the process of approving the budget & establishing tax rates we have to follow the provisions of the City Charter & State law. We need to prepare a summary & publish it in the newspaper. We are proposing that the average homestead will pay \$8.05 more next fiscal year. We start the process at the next CC mtg., Aug. 3. Mr. Hughes will get the certified roll on July 22. We still expect that the tax rate would be \$.53 cents & that the revenue that we receive will be greater next year than this year. Mr. Hughes stated we end up with a special schedule & explained the process. If we are looking at more than \$.53 cents, we should put that in the proposal & this gives us flexibility, needs to be done by Aug. 3 because we won't be able to exceed that. Recommends approval.

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

- D. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve Demolition and Removal of the Slide and Teeter-Totter at the Converse City Park (Chairwoman Selko and Mayor Pro Tem Shadron)

Discussion included:

- P&R discussed these items for safety concerns
- Slide has been at the Park for about 25 yrs.
- Teeter-totter has been at the Park for about 10 yrs.
- There are several types of slides & teeter-totters
- P&R Chair Selko presented a slide show about the danger of playground equipment
- P&R Chair Selko stated she took some temperature readings of the slides at South & North Park (very high & hot)
- All of the items at the park are common sense
- Parents have a responsibility for their children
- We can work on putting covers over these areas
- Something/playground equipment is better than nothing
- If we take the equipment away we may get more complaints
- We can post some type of "signs"
- Mr. Hughes & Ms. Hieronymus did not recall any claims filed

- The cost of a new teeter-totter &/or slide can be expensive
- We want to improve our parks, but we have limited funds
- Fund-raising
- The City Facility Dept. does periodic inspections
- There are no recalls on the equipment
- CC thanked Chair Selko for an excellent job with her research & findings
- Kids will have accidents
- The City is held to a higher standard in the Park than anywhere else
- City staff & the citizens have an equal responsibility of discovering flaws

This item died due to lack of a motion.

E. City Council Workshop to Discuss the 30 Percent Design of the Toepperwein Road Expansion Project (Mr. Mark Luft and Mr. Karl Hoppes)

Mr. Hoppes & Mr. Jeff Tondry of Vickery & Associates presented a slide show of Toepperwein Road, Phase 1, Crossbow Peak to FM 1976, 30% Design Summary.

Discussion included:

- Phase 1: Finalize alignment; ID issues; Cost Estimate
- Phase 2: Plan rail crossing; Coordinate with TXDOT
- Typical Section: Two-12' wide lanes each way; 14'-center turn lane; 6'-sidewalks each side
- ROW & alignment (north)
- ROW & alignment (south)
- Design challenges-drainage: Keep water off of homes on Pioneer Hill, east of Patsy, Clear Meadow & 8th Streets; maintain flows at Plumas, Schumann & 7th, discharge at FM 1976
- Design challenges-cross slope: up to 14'; worst location north of Plumas; retaining walls (cost & stability)
- Retaining wall location
- Plan View 1 of 4: Crossbow Peak to De La Garza
- Plan View 2 of 4: De La Garza to Schumann
- Plan View 3 of 4: Schumann to 3rd
- Plan View 4 of 4: 3rd to Gibbs Sprawl
- Engineer opinion of probable construction cost:

Roadway	\$4,185,575
Retaining Walls	702,585
Drainage	482,984
FM 1976 & Traffic Signal	455,216
Water and Sewer	<u>816,476</u>
TOTAL	\$6,642,836

- Continuing items: Discussion with Union Pacific Phase 2 Crossing; TXDOT Coordination & Geo-Technical Investigation
- Why continuing 5 lanes?
- Higher traffic counts

F. Discussion of Date and Festivities to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the City of Converse (Mayor Suarez)

Mayor Suarez stated he placed this on the agenda because we are right in the middle of the budget & to give Mr. Hughes guidance on what CC expects.

Mr. Hughes discussed:

- Actual date of incorporation is April 5, 1961
- 2011 calendar shows this falling on a Tues., CC night
- Proposes the following weekend, which would be Fri. April 8 & Sat. April 9, 2011
- We are looking for a carnival
- A party for the citizens/community
- Tribute session-recognize some of the key members who were instrumental in forming the City
- Basically the same venue we have for NIOC (carnival, food, arts & crafts, entertainment/bands, beer & soda)
- Sat. morning–parade, go to Park; tribute (will need citizens help to identify these key individuals)
- Not charge at the gate, go for sponsorships & the City funds
- Revenue:** \$3,800 – food; \$1,500 – beer & soda; \$3,000 – carnival; GF & sponsorships- \$20,000
- Expense:** \$2,800 - fix up, clean up, put stages up, decorations; \$5,000 – entertainment; \$5,000 – advertising; \$500 – parade; \$15,000 – fireworks
- Revenue & Expense = \$28,300 (balance)
- In the 2010-2011 budget we are adding 2 people (Fire Dept. & Facility Dept. Grounds person) – if we delay bringing both positions on until April 1 – we can finance the City’s portion & make this work
- Has a list of potential activities from staff
- Do a historical review of calendar year 1961
- We want to be able to give something back to the citizens, celebrate, recognize the City, where it got started; where we are now & where we are going
- Mr. Hughes has a good NIOC team, get Project Manager involved (work with Mr. Marbach, Mr. Kneupper, etc.)
- Possible time capsule
- After some discussion: CC decided no carnival - reduce this to a 1-day event; all day 2nd Sat., April 9

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 City staff, Ms. Gaines & Ms. Campos for their hard work on AAU
- Going paperless – we put this on hold so we don’t spend any money on equipment, laptops, etc., until further investigation with San Marcus; but would like to get monitors for the CC; City would need to put out an RFP; Council member Lopez & Mr. Hughes will work on this
- Mayor, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Luft met with TXDOT & St. Rep. Farias regarding the FM 78 exit ramps & asked why TXDOT left us out short of the funding regarding the stimulus money; they are going to try to do a quick fix for 78 exits, will keep everyone posted

B. Councilmember’s Report/Items of Interest

Council member Lopez reported:

- Web site Committee: met a few times, had 2 proposals come in & 2 are on their way; ready to move forward by the next mtg. or two

Councilmember Brown reported:

- This morning attended St. Rep. Farias convention; there are a lot of programs for families, wives, husbands, etc. call 211, 24/7 - they are out there to help, they also have a Weatherization Assistance Program put on by AACOG
- Shared pamphlets at the front sign in desk
- Budget mtgs. are coming up, please encourage neighbors to attend

C. Boards/Commission Reports

- (1) Report and Discussion of Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

MPT Shadron reported:

- Met July 12
- Briefing by Mr. Alex Saucedo, regarding the North Hampton Park upgrade
- Re-appointed the Vice Chair for another yr.
- Discussed appropriate fund raising & other Park activities in the future
- Discussed the use of community service workers
- Discussed Parkour – They fell through on their ins. contract & should they come back they need to start the process over again

D. City Manager

- (1) Report and Discussion of Future Agenda Items
- (2) Report and Discussion of Items of Interest

Mr. Hughes reported:

- Will refine the budget based on the certified roll; Mr. Wilson will give a briefing on the changes that have been made from the workshop until this new budget
- The proposal to increase taxes will be on the agenda
- Has heard we have received approval of 500 acre ft. of Carrizo Wilcox water rights; the agreement is being drafted & sent over for our approval, hope to have by Aug. 3 – will have to work the interconnect with City of Schertz, somewhere in the vicinity of McArthur Park – we will use that water primarily on that side

12. Adjournment

At approximately 9:15 PM, Mayor Suarez adjourned the meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 3rd DAY OF AUGUST, 2010.

Al Suarez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Adriana I. Hieronymus, City Secretary