

CITY OF CONVERSE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2010  
6:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Converse met in a special meeting at the Converse Municipal Complex on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 6:30 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. John Quintanilla, Interim City Manager
Mr. Rex Rheiner, Assistant Chief of Police	Mr. Richard Wendt, Chief of Fire/EMS
Mr. Karl Hoppes, Director of Facilities	Mr. Lupe Perez, Director of Utilities
Ms. Penny Hieronymus, City Secretary	

1. Call to Order

At approximately 6:36 PM, Mayor Suarez called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors

Mayor Suarez stated all Council members are present. The Mayor introduced Council, St. Rep. Joe Farias & JISD Superintendent Dr. Mackey.

3. Discussion of Current and Future City Projects (Mayor Suarez)

Mayor Suarez reported:

- The purpose of this mtg. is to bring the State, municipal government & JISD to brief on what is on the ballot
- Rules: No cell phones, no texting & no Internet surfing
- Completed Toepperwein Road improvements from FM 1976 to Schumann Road – are some issues with the engineer & construction co. on drainage problems; still under litigation
- Working Kitty Hawk Road improvements from Toepperwein Road to the boundary to Scenic Creek
- New Toepperwein expansion should have lighting
- Completed Gibbs Sprawl Bridge Road improvement; joint project with Union Pacific & our EDC
- Placid Park Subdivision improvements (streets & sidewalks); joint project with Bx. Co. Community Block Dev. Grant
- Schaefer Road improvements from FM 1516 to the Judson PAC has been widened from 2 lanes to 5 lanes
- New sidewalks from the new Judson Middle School to Boysville
- Completed Thorton & Rocket Lane improvements, doing a lighting study at this time

- Next budget: Will consider re-doing Crestway Road (our part)
- Station Street from Gibbs Sprawl to School Street is already approved for renovation maintenance
- Avenue B from South Seguin to Mesquite Street
- Continue the long-term project - Toepperwein Road re-alignment from Rolling Creek Subdivision to FM 1976; plan to build a 5-lane road that will continue from Live Oak & go through Converse & meet on FM 78
- Working with TXDOT on expansion of FM 1516 (South Seguin Road)
- Street light has been in place on Old Cimarron Road & FM 1976, should be operational Nov. 1
- FM 1604 widening of 4 lanes to Graytown Road, currently on schedule
- County has proposed & approved a pass-through project to widen & expand FM 1604 to IH 10 & waiting on TXDOT to approve this
- Working with TXDOT to address the ramp improvements on FM 78 & 1604, Rep. Farias is assisting us
- Will be working City Parks master plans on the 2 parks we have by the P&R Commission, will be a new restroom at North Park & deciding which construction company will get that bid
- North Park – New roadway, parking & new football field
- North Park Lake – Recently re-stocked with fish
- Proposed future projects: Possible Dog Park & try to get it funded
- East Park – Will continue to plan & dev.
- Working alternative water source(s)
- Extended the recycle water to Ralston Street
- Have plans to extend the pipeline to JHS, so they can utilize it for their new ball fields
- Have plans to extend the pipeline to Ingram Ready Mix
- Under discussion with Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corp., we are attempting to start our own local water corp. with Metrocom Cities (Selma, Live Oak, Cibolo & us)
- Ordinances – Been codified & are on our web site
- New web site is underway & been contracted, possibly within 6 months
- Approved & underway - new digital marquee in front of City Hall
- COC – proposing a Texting Ord. (similar Universal City & SA)
- Just recently balanced the budget, kept a .52 cent per \$100 similar rates to 1999 – City doing very well with same quality services
- Proposing to hire a new Audit Firm
- Having a classification compensation study the CC has ordered for all City positions, hoping this product will enhance the pay in Converse & make it more competitive to the other surrounding cities
- Gearing up for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for April 2011, each CC member will appoint a member to the Committee
- Planning & Zoning Commission has been combined
- Re-established the Beautification & Environmental Commission
- CC has consensus to continue discussion of annexation
- EDC will be conducting a feasibility study for the possible Hotel Convention Center in the Airport City area
- Currently working with the Metrocom Mayor's & NE Lakeview College to attempt to bring VIA service to NE Lakeview College
- Emergency Service District #1 contract was re-newed for another 2 years to provide Fire/EMS services to the unincorporated areas
- New JHS is about 90% complete, should be complete within the next week or so; demolition can start on the old campus; school currently has 3,360 students enrolled at JHS at a capacity of 3,400
- JHS bond does affect Converse especially with growth
- Mayor Suarez stated he can't tell anyone how to vote, but he is going to vote for the bond

Mr. Max Cuellar of 10028 Wurzbach Street asked about the Airport City roads & to possibly put a street sign at Kneupper Ave./by Ingram & FM &78.

Mayor Suarez stated St. Rep. Farias opened his 1<sup>st</sup> District Office in Converse & has been a strong advocate for us, especially in the NE Metrocom.

4. Briefing by State Representative District 118 Joe Farias on Proposed Issues for the 82<sup>nd</sup> State Legislative Session (Representative Farias)

State Rep. Joe Farias reported:

- Appreciates it every time when people visit with him on concerns
- Spoke on the budget & finances on the St. of Tx., they don't want to cut services
- Have to cut somewhere
- Can't afford to take any more cuts on public education or human services for the elderly
- His drive is to get to Austin, play defense & keep what we have
- He is 1 vote of 149 that will vote on the budget
- He asked what is your personal goal in life?
- He asked what would you do if we didn't have any money & couldn't give a pay raise to teachers?
- Best to tell people the honest truth: we have no money, love you & want you to stay with us
- We don't have any money; but there are a lot of creative ideas to find money
- Re-districting is going to change & he does not know if he will be representing all of Converse, but he would love to have all of Converse & has enjoyed the time he has been here
- Re-visit the vote ID
- Might re-visit immigration
- They have to take care of the St. business & have 140 days to do it
- Speaker Joe Strauss has 2 challengers; when the Speaker changes all of the Committees are dismantled & they have to start all over; the Speaker determines how the rest of the session goes
- Jan. 11, 2011 – They get sworn in & they will select a Speaker
- Some of the Bills he will put forward are in public health in the public school (obesity, heart disease, diabetes, etc.) in our children
- Introduce Bill for health education in the elementary & middle schools
- We want to retain our teachers
- Working with Dr. Wiley in San Marcos & NEISD – who have healthy life styles for their students
- Identify a "leave a code" - where you are going (home schooled, going out of the Country-where kids are going & track where they are at)
- Working with TX. A&M Univ. in SA & partnership with them in trying to identify & work a program that certifies teachers with skills to work with students in diverse communities
- Organization in SA called "Seniors", a group of volunteers all over the nation, to help mentor the students by helping with homework, keep them in school, talking with them, etc.-great success from this organization
- Bx. Co. has a 38% drop out rate
- Hosting an event in the NE, Golf Tournament in Live Oak, Sat. Oct. 23 at 10 AM to 12 or 12:30 PM, the funds will go to the Wounded Marines & will be matched, will have hotdogs/refreshments at no cost-donations welcome
- Encourages people to call his office & go to Austin during their session Jan. 11 to May 31, 2011; the Mayor's of the NE Partnership will go up there; if you do go to Austin – call in advance & let his office know so they can put you on his calendar so he can visit with you & get a personal tour

Suggestions: possibly have some of our wounded warriors incorporated to help mentor; we want to build things to keep our children in school; what mechanisms do we have to bring these young kids together in a workshop

type forum to get feedback as to why they aren't in school & what would keep them in school; get young folks to talk with young folks & discussed "Teach for America" program.

Mayor Suarez acknowledged Precinct 4 Commission Tommy Adkisson.

Mayor Suarez stated JISD Superintendent Dr. Willis Mackey was selected to lead JISD since 2007 & has established close partnership with all of the Metrocom Cities & reaches out to the community.

5. Briefing by Judson Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Willis Mackey on 2010 Judson ISD Bond Propositions (Dr. Mackey)

Dr. Mackey reported:

- 2006 Bond - they did not go over budget, but they did go over on some projects
- Discussed some of the other things they accomplished
- Nov. 2, 2010 Election Day & they are asking for 3 Bond Propositions
- He would like to see every kid reading on grade level by the time they get to 3rd grade
- They are putting a strategic plan together to close the gaps in their programs
- Parents need to take control of the kids, the school needs our support
- They want to be the best district in SA
- Our families & kids deserve the best
- Tell the kids the truth

-Proposition #1 - \$ 63,600,000.00 Renovations/Remodel/Repairs/Adjustments

- Candlewood Elementary School
- Coronado Village Elementary School
- Crestview Elementary School
- Elof Elementary School
- Ed Franz Elementary School
- Hopkins Elementary School
- Judson Education Community Center
- Miller's Point Elementary School
- Olympia Elementary School
- Park Village Elementary School
- Paschall Elementary School
- Salinas Elementary School
- Spring Meadows Elementary School
- Woodlake Elementary School
- Judson Middle School (Gray Campus)
- Kirby Middle School
- Kitty Hawk Middle School
- Metzger Middle School
- Woodlake Hills Middle School
- Judson High School
- Judson Early College Academy
- Wagner High School
- Performing Arts Center
- Support Facilities
- Asphalt/Concrete Renovations & Additions

-Proposition #2 - \$ 63,500,000.00

Mid District Elementary to Open in 2012  
North or South Elementary to Open in 2015  
Satellite Transportation Facility to Serve South End of District  
Technology Upgrades to Infrastructure, Hardware, Software

-Proposition #3 - \$ 71,700,000.00

North High School to Open in 2015  
Education Support Center

\*Total Bond: \$198,800,000.00

Mayor Suarez acknowledged JISD Board member Johnny Harris & JISD Principal Christine Vidaurri. He introduced & thanked the Council & staff.

Ms. Hieronymus & Ms. Gary made available sample ballots & early voting information at the sign in table.

6. Adjournment

At approximately 8:10 PM, Mayor Suarez adjourned the meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2010.

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Al Suarez, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Adriana I. Hieronymus, City Secretary