



*Expanding Horizons*

CITY OF CONVERSE  
CITY ADMINISTRATION

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**MINUTES  
CITY OF CONVERSE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 21, 2012 - 7:00 PM**

Be it known that the City Council of the City of Converse met for a Regular Meeting at the City Council Chambers at 402 South Seguin Street on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7:00 PM. A quorum of the following commissions may be present: Beautification & Environmental, Building & Standards, Charter Review, Economic Development Corporation, Park & Recreation and Planning & Zoning.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Suarez called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**2. INVOCATION:**

Councilman Pannell gave the invocation.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Suarez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

**4. ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

Mayor Al Suarez	Mayor Pro Tem, Grant Lopez
Councilwoman Kathy Richel, Place 1	Councilman Andy Selko, Place 3
Councilman Randy Pannell, Place 4	Councilwoman Laura Beehler, Place 5
Ms. Shawna Dowell, City Manager	Ms. Jackie Gaines, City Secretary
Mr. Ray Ortiz, City Attorney	

Councilman Steve Brown is on approved medical leave.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve Minutes for the City Council Meeting on January 26, 2012**
- B. Receive Minutes for Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting on January 09, 2012**
- C. Receive Minutes for Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on January 09, 2012**
- D. Receive Minutes for Charter Review Commission Meeting on January 25, 2012.**

Councilman Pannell made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items A-D. Councilwoman Richel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS:**

- A. State of the City Address. (Mayor Suarez).**

Mayor Suarez presented the State of the City Address. (Attached)

**B. Recognition of Adriana “Penny” Hieronymus, City Secretary, for her Service of Twenty-five (25) Years with the City of Converse. (Mayor Suarez).**

Ms. Adriana Hieronymus was recognized by State Representative Roland Gutierrez, Office of State Representative Joe Farias, Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, City Council, Northeast Partnership and Family members for her service to the City of Converse. Ms. Hieronymus expressed her gratitude for the tribute to her during her tenure with the City of Converse.

At 7:42 P.M., Mayor Suarez called for a recess.

At 8:00 P.M., Mayor Suarez reconvened the meeting.

**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.

- Perry Donop, 8678 FM 78-Will speak under item 8D.
- Celeste Morris, 9014 Arabian King-Library upgrades, FD quick response time
- Katherine Ohnosorge, 505 Gail Circle-Thanked the Council for installing leash law signs.
- Melissa Youngblood, 9262 Schaeffer Road-Animal Control violation and Feral Cat Coalition.
- Dennis Johnson, San Antonio-Will speak under 8D and 9D.

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Public Hearing on a Request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on a Parcel of Land located at 9160 FM 78 (CB 5063H, BLK 6, LOT 12 SHADOW CREEK UNIT - 2, ID # 311491), approximately 0.1900 Acres of Land to allow for the operation of a Self Service Ice & Water Distribution Business, “The Ice Bucket”.**

Mayor Suarez opened the Public Hearing at 8:09 P.M.

-Richard Hageman, owner of Rio Grande Ice, will address Council on Item 10C.

Mayor Suarez closed the Public Hearing at 8:11 P.M.

**B. Public Hearing on a Request for an Addition to City of Converse Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Business, Article VII, Miscellaneous Businesses/Occupations, Division IV (New) Amusement Redemption Machine Establishments, Sections 10-305 – 10-309 (New) The New division, Division IV, “Amusement Redemption Machine Establishments” to Section 10 of the City of Converse Code of Ordinances. This addition will serve to define and regulate any electronic, electromechanical, or mechanical contrivance designed, made and adapted solely for bona fide amusement purposes if the contrivance rewards the player exclusively with noncash merchandise prizes, toys, or novelties, or a representation of value redeemable for those items, that have a wholesale value available from a single play of the game or device of not more than 10 times the amount charged to play the game or device once or \$5, whichever is less.**

Mayor Suarez opened the Public Hearing at 8:12 P.M.

-Celeste Morris, 9014 Arabian King-Listed pros and cons of having amusement redemption machine establishments.

-Adis Johnson, San Antonio-Wholesale and retail slot machine vendor, attending meeting to answer questions on the subject of slot machines.

Mayor Suarez closed the Public Hearing at 8:16 P.M.

- C. Public Hearing on a Request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on a Parcel of Land located at 339 S. Seguin (CB 5563A, BLK 8, LOT 9 & 10, ID # 346130), approximately 0.3771 Acres of Land to allow for the operation of a "Gift Shop/ Penny / Operation" Business to include "8-Liners" devices as requested by the property owner. These devices may reward the player exclusively with noncash merchandise prizes, toys, or novelties, or a representation of value redeemable for those items, that have a wholesale value available from a single play of the game or device of not more than 10 times the amount charged to play the game or device once or \$5, whichever is less.**

Mayor Suarez opened the Public Hearing at 8:17 P.M.

Celeste Morris, 9014 Arabian King-Listed pros and cons of 8-Liners in the City.

Mayor Suarez closed the Public Hearing at 8:19 P.M.

- D. Public Hearing on a Request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on a Parcel of Land located along the 8400 block of Crestway, adjacent to FM 78 & Crestway (CB 5071E, BLK 2, LOT 3, ID # 1010669), approximately 1.6580 Acres of Land to allow for the operation of a Mini Storage Facility Business.**

Mayor Suarez opened the Public Hearing at 8:19 P.M.

-Perry Donup, San Antonio-Owner of Rocket Storage. Asked Council to deny SUP request; Converse will become saturated and current mini-storage businesses are not at full capacity.

-Celeste Morris, 9014 Arabian King-Concerned with the set-back, lack of view in the turn.

-Jim Sherman, 10218 Plumas-Requested Council to deny additional storage unit due to saturation of storage facilities and vacancies within the facilities.

-Debra James, 8310 Copperside-City has too many storage facilities and asked the Council to consider better use of the land.

Mayor Suarez closed the Public Hearing at 8:26 P.M.

- E. Public Hearing on a Proposed Review and Changes to the City of Converse Code of Ordinances Chapter 50, Zoning. This review will serve to better organize and define permitted uses and facilitate the reclassification of permitted uses. Also, consideration will be given to future developments, classification of future developments and how to appropriately zone said developments.**

Mayor Suarez opened the Public Hearing at 8:26 P.M.

-Celeste Morris, 9014 Arabian King-Asked Council to consider green-belts, waterways and hazardous waste.

Mayor Suarez closed the Public Hearing at 8:26 P. M.

**9. OLD BUSINESS:**

NONE.

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve the Final Plat for MacArthur Park Unit III-B, Plat #127. (Assistant City Manager).**

Mr. Quintanilla reported P&Z Commission approved the final plat with no concerns. Danny Smith and Ty Turner spoke on the park and pool. Ms. Dowell stated the city will address and oversee any irrigation matters. The HOA will oversee the daily pool functions.

Councilman Pannell made a motion to approve the final plat for Mac Arthur Park Unit III-B, Plat # 127. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve the Preliminary Infrastructure Acceptance of MIRAMAR Unit #9. (Assistant City Manager).**

Mr. Quintanilla listed the items on the punch-list that have not been completed due to the weather conditions and requested approval of the preliminary infrastructure acceptance of Miramar Unit #9.

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve the preliminary infrastructure acceptance of Miramar Unit #9. Councilman Pannell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Discussion and Appropriate and Appropriate Action to Approve a Request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on a Parcel of Land located at 9160 FM 78 (CB 5063H, BLK 6, LOT 12 SHADOW CREEK UNIT - 2, ID # 311491), approximately 0.1900 Acres of Land to allow for the operation of a Self Service Ice & Water Distribution Business, "The Ice Bucket". (Assistant City Manager).**

Mr. Quintanilla stated the P&Z Commission approved the SUP for the Ice Bucket. Discussion between Council was oversaturation of ice businesses.

Motion failed approval on a tied vote. (Beehler, Selko and Lopez voted against. Pannell, Richel and Suarez voted in favor).

**D. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve an Addition to the City of Converse Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Business, Article VII, Miscellaneous Businesses/Occupations, Division IV (New) Amusement Redemption Machine Establishments, Sections 10-305 – 10-309 (New) The New division, Division IV, "Amusement Redemption Machine Establishments" to Section 10 of the City of Converse Code of Ordinances. This addition will serve to define and regulate any electronic, electromechanical, or mechanical contrivance designed, made and adapted solely for bona fide amusement purposes if the contrivance rewards the player exclusively with noncash merchandise prizes, toys, or novelties, or a representation of value redeemable for those items, that have a wholesale value available from a single play of the game or device of not more than 10 times the amount charged to play the game or device once or \$5, whichever is less. (First Reading). (Assistant City Manager).**

Deferred to next meeting.

**E. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve a Request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on a Parcel of Land located at 339 S. Seguin (CB 5563A, BLK 8, LOT 9 & 10, ID # 346130), approximately 0.3771 Acres of Land to allow for the operation of a "Gift Shop/ Penny / Operation" Business to include "8-Liners" devices. These devices may reward the player exclusively with noncash merchandise prizes, toys, or novelties, or a representation of value redeemable for those items, that have a wholesale value available from a single play of the game or device of not more than 10 times the amount charged to play the game or device once or \$5, whichever is less. (Assistant City Manager).**

Mr. Quintanilla stated the P&Z Commission voted 6-0 against the SUP. Concerns are the establishment is close to a school and church. Lieutenant James added the payout becomes an issue when rules are not followed. The owner was not at present to answer questions from the Council.

Councilman Pannell made a motion to disapprove. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez seconded the motion. The motion to disapprove the SUP was unanimous.

**F. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve a Request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on a Parcel of Land located along the 8400 block of Crestway, adjacent to FM 78 & Crestway (CB 5071E, BLK 2, LOT 3,**

**ID # 1010669), approximately 1.6580 Acres of Land to allow for the operation of a Mini Storage Facility Business . (Assistant City Manager).**

Mr. Quintanilla reported the P&Z Commission disapproved due to over-saturation of mini storage units. Staff added this type of business is not the highest and best use of lot. Councilman Selko made a motion to disapprove the SUP. Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to disapprove the Special Use Permit.

**G. Discussion of Annual Racial Profiling Report for 2011 by Converse Police Department. (Chief of Police).**

Assistant Chief Rheiner gave a briefing on the Converse Police Department Annual Contact Report that included the Texas Racial Profiling Law requirements. The following requirements were met by the Converse Police Department in accordance with Senate Bill 1074: defined act or actions that constitute racial profiling, statement prohibiting peach officers from engaging in racial profiling, public education, disciplinary guidelines, Tier 1 collection of data, TECLOSE annual report and policy adoption for reviewing video and audio documentation. The report is on the City website.

**H. Discussion of 2011 City of Converse Police Department Year End Statistics. (Chief of Police).**

Chief Jamison's year-end statistics report included \$90,000 of recovered property, calls for service, arrest warrants and cases filed. Having a second Animal Control Officer has helped the department and the citizens. The Warrant Officer and the Code Compliance Officer positions have rotated to two other Officers which are being trained for their duties and will be up to speed soon.

**I. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve a Contract for the Installation of a Point to Point Wireless Communication System for the City of Converse. (City Manager).**

Ms. Dowell stated the wireless system allows each of the city buildings to disseminate information and lesson the workload of the finance department, will allow each department to manage their budget on a daily basis and allow the point-of-sale to communicate directly and download to accounts payable. Mr. Ortiz made one adjustment to the labor fee and recommended approval.

Councilman Pannell made a motion to approve the contract. Councilman Selko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**J. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Live Oak and the City of Converse for Emergency Dispatch Services. (City Manager).**

Ms. Dowell reported that this is the second revision of the Interlocal Agreement between Live Oak and Converse. The ten-year contract allows the City to communicate on a regional level. Live Oak is discussing creating a board of cities that will allow all cities to make joint decisions.

Councilman Selko made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Live Oak and the City Converse. Councilwoman Beehler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**K. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve an Interlocal Agreement Between the Lower Colorado River Authority and the City of Converse for Hosting Emergency Dispatch Systems. (City Manager).**

Ms. Dowell advised Council that the City of Live Oak has contracted with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to host the emergency dispatch system and we must have an agreement with them as well. Councilwoman Beehler addressed item 1.4 of the agreement not listing the amount the City will pay for the equipment, installation and testing. Ms. Dowell overlooked the error and insured Council the cost will be within the scope of the budget. Mr. Ortiz added Attachment B covers the cost of installation and maintenance.

Ms. Beehler made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between LCRA and the City of Converse. Ms. Richel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**L. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Amendment No. II to the Regional Water Supply Contract between the Schertz Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC) and the City of Converse. (City Attorney) (City Manager).**

Mr. Ortiz informed Council that this is the second amendment which addresses time constraints to construct the water interconnect site. SSLGC agrees to approve the second amendment. The water will come through the City of Schertz and due to Converse taking a large volume of water within a short period of time; the City of Schertz is concerned with their water pressure. If their water pressure gets too low, our water pressure will be reduced or terminated until the water pressure is back. To compensate for this, a separate limited agreement will have to be signed to allow the City of Schertz to assign 80 acre feet of water to the City of Converse from the Edwards Aquifer and the City pay the administrative expense in order to avoid an over-pumping situation. This agreement will be between the City of Schertz and will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Pannell made a motion to approve the amendment of the SSLGC and the City of Converse. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**M. Discussion and Presentation of Library Operations and Future Programming. (Library Director) (City Manager).**

Mr. Ayala showed an informative slide show presentation on the updates the Library has implemented within the recent months that includes a new user-friendly Library card the staff designed, has expanded the inter-library loan service to include state-wide libraries and the World-Cat Navigation Database which allows patron to borrow books from other Texas Libraries and allows other Libraries to borrow from the Converse Public Library. The staff is progressively researching grant opportunities, has scheduled programs and special events for the year. Mr. Ayala also provided statistics on circulation, computer users, revenue and donations.

**N. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Appoint Ms. Jackie Gaines as Records Retention Officer. (City Manager).**

Ms. Dowell conveyed the requirements for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The appointment for the Records Retention Officer is due to the transition of the City Secretary position from Penny Hieronymus to Jackie Gaines.

Councilman Selko made a motion to approve the appointment of Jackie Gaines. Councilman Pannell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. CITY COUNCIL AND STAFF 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 asked to have the Street Department's Employee of the Year to attend the next Council meeting to be recognized by the City Council. Attended the MPO Public Hearing, TXDOT is applying 20% to the S. Seguin project, CVS Ribbon Cutting February 27<sup>th</sup>, reminded Council to ask other Council members to attend Commission meeting if they are not able to attend, expressed the Council's gratitude to Ms. Dowell for the input and feedback through the time serving as City Manager.

**B. Councilmember's Reports/Items of Interest**

Councilman Selko: April 17<sup>th</sup> is the Ride to Recovery, a four-day event, and will be coming through Converse on FM 1516 and is working with the PD and FD with traffic control. Judson HS is opening their facilities to all the

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riders to take a break and rest.

Councilman Pannell: Received a citizen concern with traffic backup at the Gibbs Sprawl and Toepperwein intersection. Ms. Dowell will follow up and report back to Councilman Pannell.

### C. City Commission Liaison Reports

Beautification and Environmental Commission-Councilwoman Beehler: Parks and Recreation meeting Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Planning and Zoning Commission-Councilman Brown: Councilman Pannell attended the meeting for Councilman Brown and reported they have two Saturday workshops planned.

Charter Review Commission-Councilman Selko: Commission almost complete with the review of the Charter and is preparing documents to present to the City Council.

Building and Standards Commission-Councilman Pannell: CVLGC meeting scheduled and reported on the 505 Toepperwein project.

**D. Economic Development Corporation Report**: Ms. Silvas reported EDC will continue to receive application for the EDC Board vacancy, distributed environmentally "Buy Converse" promotional bags to Council that will be distributed at the Randolph Metrocom Chamber of Converse and Schertz Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, attended the MPO hearing on the S Seguin expansion, will attend the ICSC conference, prepared and submitted a proposal for a potential business, staff working on business retention on a weekly basis and Open House is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**E. City Manager's Report & Discussion of Future Agenda Items/Items of Interest**: Ms. Dowell distributed a TML article on Open Meetings, the two-billing cycle transition is in process and on February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> Utility staff working late hours to implement the Incode conversion, presented Council with a color chart for the water interconnect tower, CVLGC meeting February 23<sup>rd</sup>, retirement celebration February 29<sup>th</sup> for Penny Hieronymus and Mae Kirk, attending "Water In Texas" conference in Austin March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with Mr. Quintanilla and Councilman Pannell, March 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic planning meeting, Beautification Day sponsored by the B&E Commission is March 31<sup>st</sup> and Incode servers installation is March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Suarez recessed for Executive Session at 10:11 P.M.

**A. Executive Session in Accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act Section 551.074, PERSONNEL MATTERS. Personnel Matters to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee. (City Manager)**

Opened 10:20 P.M. Closed 10:48 P.M.

**B. Executive Session in Accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act § 551.071. CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY; CLOSED MEETING. Consultation with the City Attorney and discuss the adsLED INC. (City Attorney) (City Manager)**

Opened 10:49 P.M. Closed 11:02 P.M.

## 13. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

**A. Discussion Appropriate Action in Accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act § 551.074. PERSONNEL MATTERS; CLOSED MEETING. Personnel Matters to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee. (City Manager)**

Mayor Suarez reconvened the open session at 11:04 P.M.

Councilman Pannell made a motion to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. Councilwoman Beehler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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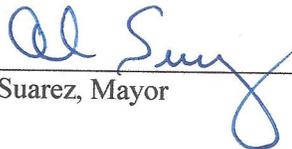
**B. Discussion and Appropriate Action in Accordance with Deliberations regarding the adsLED INC.(City Attorney) (City Manager)**

Mayor Suarez reported no further action required.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Suarez adjourned the meeting at 11:05 P.M.

Passed and Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of April, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Al Suarez, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Gaines  
City Secretary



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS  
Mayor Al Suarez  
Tuesday, February 21, 2012

GOOD EVENING COUNCILMEMBERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, CITY STAFF, VISITORS, LADIES & GENTLEMAN... IT CONTINUES TO BE MY PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO SERVE AS MAYOR OF ONE OF THE GREATEST CITIES IN TEXAS. - THE CITY OF CONVERSE!!! Tonight, I stand to deliver the STATE of the CITY ADDRESS. This address has been presented for the past 4 years to provide our residents and general public a brief outline of the prior year's accomplishments, challenges, and projects completed as well as some of the proposed future plans. We congratulate the City of Converse once again for reaching its 50th Anniversary in 2011. As we approach the completion of our 51st year and begin our 52nd year, we have grown tremendously from a city of 11,501 residents to a city of 18,198 residents...a substantial growth of 58%. It takes a lot to make a city operate and appear to run seamless. For those of you that have ever served or worked in government, you know that partnerships are paramount to reaching short and long-term goals. Please allow me to acknowledge a few of the key partners & leaders that have contributed significantly to making CONVERSE a better place to LIVE: U.S. Congressman District 28 Henry Cuellar, Texas State Senator District 21 Judith Zafirini, Texas State Representative District 118 Joe Farias, Texas State Representative District 119 Roland Gutierrez, Bexar County Commissioner Precinct 4 Tommy Adkisson, and Judson Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Willis Mackey.....on behalf of the City of Converse, thank

you ALL so much for your pro-active support. (FM 1604 Expansion Proj.) To the City Council, City Staff, Employees, and citizen volunteers... thank you for giving your best in all that we undertake to make Converse a better place to live.....Please join me in applauding the excellent work and leadership that our City Staff has demonstrated over the past 12 months to make Converse a better place to live. Our sincere thanks to the individual department heads for their OUTSTANDING leadership in moving our city forward to the next level. We remain totally appreciative of your leadership and the respect that members of your department have for you. Our citizens continue to make positive comments about the improvements in the service they are provided by your respective departments. Our sincere thanks to the: City Manager Shawna Dowell & Asst. City Manager John Quintanilla.

- o Police Department, Chief Rick Jamison
- o Fire Department, Chief Richard Wendt
- o Public Works Department, Karl Hoppes
- o Utilities Department, Lupe Perez
- o Economic Development Corporation, Kate Silvas
- o Finance Department, Jerry Wilson
- o City Attorney & City Engineer, Ray Ortiz and Jeff Tondre
- o Municipal Court, Judge Frank Dickson
- o Library Director, Robert Ayala

We continue to enjoy one of the safest communities in Bexar County thanks to the proactive approach taken by our Police officers of the Converse Police

Department. The dedication & professionalism of this department is second to none. No other department in Bexar County comes close to providing the stellar services in Fire & EMS service than the outstanding members of the Converse Fire Department. The Converse Fire Department continues to provide OUTSTANDING services to BOTH the unincorporated areas of Northeast Bexar County as members of the Emergency Services District #1 and as Mutual Aid to the surrounding Metrocom Cities. We still maintain one of the best ISO ratings in all of Bexar County, which is a direct reflection of the quality services our Fire Department provides. To the members of the Converse Police and Fire departments, thanks for your selfless dedication and for putting your lives on the line every single day to protect and serve us all. The Public Works department continues to improve & maintain our streets under the Tier I & Tier II streets maintenance plan. Our Utilities Department continues to provide quality water services in spite of the numerous water main breaks and the recent historic drought in Texas history. The City Council in partnership with the MetroCom cities of Schertz, Cibolo, Selma and Seguin have established the Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation (CVLGC) a unified regional Local Government Water Corporation that was established to secure the future water needs of Converse and the Metrocom partners. The Converse-Schertz Interconnect Water Site located on lower Seguin road is currently under construction and will house a 750,000-gallon water storage tank. The Water Storage tank will be used to receive water from the Wilcox-Carrizo Aquifer in Gonzales County. We recently approved a flood control project that will be completed by The San

Antonio River Authority's Watershed Flood Control Management. This million-dollar flood mitigation Project for the Martinez flood zone located near the Cimarron Subdivisions adjacent to the Kitty Hawk Road Bridge will assist the affected residential areas on Flatland Trail & Mission Creek streets. We are very optimistic that this flood control project will remove the affected residential areas from the new FEMA 100-year flood zone maps. In December 2011, the City Council unanimously appointed Municipal Court Judge Frank Dickson to uphold the ordinances enacted by this city. Judge Dickson is a former Bexar County Assistant District Attorney and a graduate of Texas Tech University. The City Library under the direction of Robert Ayala has improved the services significantly to benefit users of all ages. Mr. Ayala has implemented new ideas and has increased the summer reading programs for all ages to enjoy. We would like to extend a special thanks to all of our volunteers for the countless hours, sacrifices and commitments to our city.

Our sincere thanks to the members of our citizen commissions from the:

- o Economic Development Corporation
- o Building & Standards Commission
- o Beautification & Environmental Commission
- o Charter Review Commission
- o Parks & Recreation Commission
- o Planning & Zoning Commission

Responsible commercial and residential growth continues in Converse. We currently have on going housing expansion developments in the Copperfield, MacArthur Park, Rolling Creek, Hanover Cove, Miramar and Cimarron Landing subdivisions. We will continue to be aggressive and this City Council will continue to work closely with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to enhance our commercial development & growth. The EDC in partnership with the city has initiated preliminary plans to commission an Economic Impact Study for the FM 1604 corridor. We are confident that the EDC Board of Directors will effectively strategize and develop a plan of action to achieve the next level of responsible commercial growth. We will continue to work together and complete the Strategic Plan within the next few months. And we will organize a plan to update our city's Master plan. The Beautification and Environmental (B&E) Commission continues with its proactive initiatives to help keep Converse clean and environmentally friendly. We would like to recognize Code Compliance Officer Carlos Licea for an outstanding job on code compliance enforcement throughout our city for the past year. The Parks & Recreation Commission continues to implement family oriented activities that have proven to be of great value to our city and citizens. They have implemented future plans to increase more citizen activities and have recently discussed the possibility of walking trails. Night in Ole Converse continues to grow tremendously and it is one of the most successful and anticipated festival events of the year for the city of Converse. The Building & Standards Commission has worked very

diligently with our City Attorney and City staff to help address distressed properties throughout the city. We congratulate them for making the tough decisions and enforcing our ordinances. The Planning & Zoning Commission continues to work very closely with the builders & developers while enforcing our strict building codes & zoning ordinances and submitting solid recommendations to City Council. We applaud them for their proactive efforts and recommendations. The City of Converse continues to support Community Youth Programs, we now have five youth organizations utilizing our facilities: the Converse Cardinals, Judson Youth Sports Foundation (JYSF), St. Monica's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), St. Monica's Catholic School and Randolph High School. Our parks & sports facilities have been made available to all Organizations that are supporting our local youths. This Council remains committed to partnering with ALL organizations that conduct a variety of youth programs for our children. These kinds of partnerships help build a better Converse for everyone. These partnerships allow our children to benefit from programs that develop self-esteem, team cohesion, sportsmanship, responsibility, and commitment. All the necessary traits needed for becoming solid adults. Thanks to all the members of the Charter Review Commission for their efforts and thorough review of the City Charter. In that spirit, please give me a few brief moments to summarize some of the things we have accomplished and share some future goals planned to propel our city to even more prominence within the coming year of 2012. We continue to strengthen our

streets & utilities infrastructure, the Tier I & Tier II Street Maintenance plan implemented in 2007 will continue to be a priority for this Council. We have made outstanding progress on the Tier 1 & Tier 2 Street maintenance initiatives. We have made new improvements to Toepperwein Road, Thornton Lane, Schaefer Road, and Rocket Lane. And a special thanks to the Bexar County Commissioners for their approval of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that was used to reconstruct Ave B. We have continued to invest in additional street equipment to enhance and extend the life of our neighborhood streets. The FM 1604 Roadway Expansion Project has been completed and funded entirely by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 "stimulus package." We are happy to report it has been completed. A new expansion of FM 1604 will be underway very soon... by a "Pass Through Financing Program"...this summer... With the partnership & support of Bexar County... thanks to Commissioner Tommy Adkisson and the Bexar County Commissioners.....a \$28 million Dollar Project....A new expansion of FM 1604.... From Graytown Road to IH 10 will be expanded from two lanes to a four lane divided highway. Additionally, this Council & City Staff recently approved a Resolution to expand South Seguin Road from FM 78 to FM 1976 to a 5-lane roadway. We have aggressively submitted a request for funding assistance to the San Antonio-Bexar Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). And today we are happy to report that the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) recently agreed to fund an additional 20% of this project request. We have also made a formal request to TXDOT to reconstruct the Entrance & Exit

Ramps at the intersections of FM 78 & FM 1604. The expansion and reconstruction of these entrance/exit ramps will enhance the overall traffic safety of this community. We are also optimistic that this project will be approved & completed in the very near future. We have developed a ten-year utilities infrastructure plan that will continue to extend our quality water services. This ten-year plan will address all water and sewer lines within the City of Converse. We have installed additional street lighting and steel telephone poles throughout the city to enhance the security & safety of our residents. Converse has the distinction of saying what most cities in the US cannot say. WE HAVE APPROVED ANOTHER BALANCED BUDGET. Even through the most difficult times of 2011, we were fortunate to have been good stewards of the people's tax money. Yes, YOUR MONEY... NO CONVERSE CITY EMPLOYEE has lost their job due to downsizing, layoffs, or reduction in operating hours. In fact, our diligent and conservative spending has resulted in the city being able to purchase additional equipment for all departments: we have purchased new police cars, a new street maintenance Chip Sealer, and a new Fire Truck Pumper. And after many citizen requests and as a direct result of our explosive residential growth, we now have a 2nd Animal Control Officer. We recently approved an upgrade to our Compensation Study in order to effectively evaluate the entire city compensation system commissioned through the Werling Group. This additional upgrade and evaluation will result in a thorough and fair Employee Compensation Study that will benefit ALL OUR CITY EMPLOYEES. The goal of this Employee Compensation study is to evaluate each

employee, pay level, and determine whether the pay is in line with the actual job description and whether it is competitive based on specific criteria and best practices. Again, every city employee is very much appreciated by this Council and we want to make sure every employee is fairly compensated for the tremendous work performed. And rest assured...that this City Council would address all concerns resulting from this Compensation study. We have recently commissioned a Utility Water Rate study in order to provide the best Water rates to our citizens based on the operations & maintenance of a sound water department. We recently approved the reorganization of a new Water Billing schedule to better serve our citizens. The City Council unanimously approved the purchase of a new financial management software system known as "Incode." Incode will empower the City Staff to execute day-to-day business functions with efficiency and ease. This software will provide our city with greater efficiency, productivity and responsiveness. Last year the City Council approved a quarterly Newsletter and unveiled a new city website to provide communication alternatives for our citizens to access up to date and real time information. The Council also approved a New Digital Marquee. But unfortunately has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances with the vendor...but we are optimistic that we will have this completed within the next few months. So, as you can see, we continue to move this city forward with new innovation based on our citizen's input. We are seven individual elected leaders working towards a single goal of TAKING CARE OF THE PEOPLE OF CONVERSE and making decisions that will make Converse a better place to live. We may individually take different

thought paths, we may agree & disagree, but in the end, I'm confident each of us will do what's right for you and the City of Converse. In closing, our future as a city is full of CHALLENGES, POSSIBILITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, and SUCCESSES. Within the next couple of months, we will conduct several workshops to complete our Strategic Plan, organize a plan to complete a 2012 Master plan and proactively explore the possibilities of future Annexation Plans. Your City Council, city staff, & employees will continue to work together as ONE UNIFIED TEAM.... for one common GOAL... to make Converse a better place to live...THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AND GOD BLESS THE CITY OF CONVERSE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.