

CITY OF CONVERSE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2011  
7:00 PM

The City Council of the City of Converse met in a regular meeting at the Converse Municipal Complex on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 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. John Quintanilla, Interim City Manager
Mr. Rick Jamison, Chief of Police	Mr. Richard Wendt, Chief of Fire/EMS
Mr. Karl Hoppes, Director of Facilities	Mr. Lupe Perez, Director of Utilities
Mr. Jerry Wilson, Finance Director	Mr. Ray Christian, Assistant Chief of Fire/EMS
Ms. Jackie Gaines, Human Resource	Various Members from the Police Dept.
Mr. Paul Bocconcelli, Police Officer	Mr. Gil Martinez, Police Officer
Mr. Ray Ortiz, 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

Associate Pastor John Woolery of New Hope Life Baptist 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 CC members are present. The Mayor introduced the Council, City staff & City Attorney.

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

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- A. Action to Approve City Council Minutes for Meeting Conducted on December 21, 2010
- B. Action to Approve Special City Council Minutes for Meeting Conducted on January 15, 2011
- C. Receive Minutes from Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Conducted on December 20, 2010
- D. Action to Approve the Election Order Setting May 14, 2011 as the Date for the General Election (City Secretary)
- E. Action to Approve City of Converse Proclamation #264, a Proclamation Supporting Meritage Homes for its Development of the High Performance Green Community of Homes at the Rolling Creek Subdivision (Mayor Suarez)
- F. Action to Approve City of Converse Proclamation #265, a Proclamation Honoring the Retirement of Police K-9 “MARCO” (Mayor Suarez)

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

MPT Shadron made a motion to approve agenda items #5 A, B, D, E & F. Council member Benbrook seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Council member Paschall had a correction on agenda item #5 C (CC was just receiving the minutes), Page 5, #6 last bullet.

Should be: “A search is still on for compensation **study** for the city and city employees”.

Council member Paschall made a motion to approve agenda item #5 C with the above amendment. Council member Pannell seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. Special Consideration Items

A. State of the City Address (Mayor Suarez)

GOOD EVENING CONVERSE RESIDENTS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND CITY COUNCILMEMBERS. IT CONTINUES TO BE MY PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS MAYOR OF ONE OF THE GREATEST CITIES IN TEXAS. – THE CITY OF CONVERSE!!!

Tonight, I stand to deliver the THE STATE of the CITY ADDRESS. This address tonight is more special than others presented in the last three years, because this year Converse celebrates its 50 years as an INCORPORATED CITY.

It takes a lot to make a city operate and appear to run seamless. For those of you who have ever served or worked in government, you know there are a lot of partnerships outside the city who work together to make a lot of our success possible. We have grown from a city of 11,501 citizens to a city of 18,110.

Please allow me to acknowledge a few of the key partners who have contributed significantly to making CONVERSE a better place to LIVE:

State Representative Joe Farias, District 118 – was the first representative to bring state government to Converse. He continues to provide strong support for the city of Converse and its citizens.

County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, Precinct 4 – has proven himself to be a friend and long-time advocate of Converse. Recently he was re-elected to a 4th term as our County Commissioner. If I were to articulate the enormity of what he has contributed to our city, we would be here all night. But, let me highlight some of his efforts:

➤ He has brought thousands of dollars, through Community Development Block Grants to assist Converse with infrastructure, drainage, and economic development.....especially the Placid Park Area.

➤ As the Chairman of the SA/Bexar Metropolitan Planning Organization he advocated for the expansion of both Kitty Hawk road and the FM 1604 expansion projects.

➤ Commissioner Adkisson lobbied and advocated at our request for a “pass through” county funded project for the completion of FM 1604 from Graytown Road all the way to IH-10. This \$28 million dollar project was recently approved by the Texas Department of Transportation Commission and is due to commence in the spring of 2012. This Project was originally scheduled for SA/MPO approval in 2035.....More than 20 years early!

Judson Superintendant Dr. Willis Mackey & the School Board of Trustees –Continues to improve the educational programs & facilities as well as the infrastructure for our kids.

• Under their leadership, we now have a new Judson High School, despite the numerous challenges.

• I commend Dr. Mackey and the School Board of Trustees for accepting Converse’s hand in partnership and for maintaining a close partnership with the city.

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- Not nearly enough is said about the tremendous commitment that is required to serve on the school board. I applaud the tedious efforts and unique personality each member of the board brings that is working to implement State mandates, improve literary education, all while working to graduate ALL our kids.
- Your development and support of the State's first Early College Academy was innovative and brave. J.E.C.A. is quickly becoming the talk of the town. The children who have accepted the challenge will earn both a High School Diploma and an Associate's Degree upon graduation.....free of charge!  
Dr. Mackey, School Board Trustees, Principals, Teachers, Aides, and Staff of Judson ISD, we salute you and thank you for the sacrifices you make every day for the children of this community.

To the Converse Leadership, Staff, Employees, and City Council, thank you for giving your best in all that we undertake to make Converse a better place to live. It's no surprise that the City Council received 72 applications in a short period of time when we announced the vacancy of our City Manager position. The phenomenal response signifies that Converse is a marketable city with lots of future potential.

We have finally narrowed our choices to two excellent and equally qualified candidates. An announcement will be made when the City Council has completed the hiring process.....stay tuned. A humble thank you to the other 70 candidates who applied and those who interviewed for our City Manager position. Please join me and applauding the excellent work and leadership that our Interim City Manager, John Quintanilla, has demonstrated over the last few months. Enough can never be said about the excellent work all our city employees provide. However, we don't give enough credit to their leadership. Please indulge these brief moments while I publicly recognize some of those who make sure all the work gets accomplished:

City Secretary, Penny Hieronymus  
Police Chief, Rick Jamison  
Fire/EMS Chief, Richard Wendt  
Human Resources & Project Manager, Jackie Gaines  
Finance Director, Jerry Wilson  
Municipal Court, Trisha Neeley  
Director of Facilities, Karl Hoppes  
Public Works Utilities Director, Lupe Perez  
Building Inspectors, Don Nickles & Joe Williams  
Animal Control Officer, John Cyphers  
Code Compliance Officer, Police Officer Carlos Licea  
Information Systems Coordinator, Kie Sagan

I remain totally appreciative for your leadership and the respect members of your department have for you. Our citizens have made comments repeatedly about the improvements in the service they are provided by your respective departments. Our sincere thanks!

We enjoy one of the safest communities in Texas thanks to the proactive approach taken by our Police officers. Thanks for your selfless dedication and for putting your lives on the line every single day to protect and serve us all. No one else in Bexar County comes close to providing stellar services in Fire/EMS than the outstanding members of our two Fire stations. Many of you may not know, but our Fire/EMS provides services to the unincorporated areas of Northeast Bexar County as members of the Emergency Services District #1. 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.

The Water Department continues to provide quality water services in spite of many water main breaks and historic droughts in Texas history. We extended the use of Recycled Water and held workshops to consider further options to begin a solid plan for acquiring Alternative Water Rights.....finally..... after many years of discussions by previous City Councils.

The City Council in partnership with the MetroCom cities is currently working together to develop a unified Local Water Corporation. We hope to be able to share more on that in the near future as we continue to progress on this project.

The Bexar County Watershed Management Executive Board, which I am a member of, has approved a flood mitigation plan for the Martinez flood zone that will assist the affected residential areas on Flatland Trail. We are optimistic that the affected areas will be excluded from the flood zones.

I would like to relay a special thanks to all of our volunteers that spend many hours of commitment to our City Commissions. In that spirit, please give me a few brief moments to summarize some of the things we have accomplished and share a few future goals planned to propel our city to even more prominence within the coming year. We continue to strengthen our INFRASTRUCTURE:

We have made Excellent progress on the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Street maintenance initiatives.

We completed a major drainage project on Schaeffer Road that will prevent flooding to residents adjacent to the New Judson High School.

Because of the close Partnership with Judson ISD, the Converse City Council was able to secure joint funding for both the drainage and road improvements to Schaefer Road.

The Miramar Subdivision & Boysville called on us and we answered. A joint partnership again with Judson ISD helped to secure a sidewalk between the Judson Middle School past the Miramar Subdivision to the cross walk at the Boysville front property line. We have an obligation to keep ALL our kids safe and we did! Thanks Judson ISD and Thanks to Boysville for bringing your concerns to the City of Converse.

Widening of Kitty Hawk road was one of the greatest undertakings of the City Council & City Staff. It is now complete. Citizens from Converse and surrounding areas (Windcrest, Universal City, and Live Oak) have flooded us with numerous accolades of how quickly they commute, the reduction in traffic congestion, how safer their families feel having bright new streetlights and sidewalks. This is a testament to your City Council to do whatever it takes to improve the quality of life for everyone.

The FM1604 Roadway Expansion Project has been funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 "stimulus package." I'm happy to report it is near completion.

The FM 1604 project includes widening from two to four lanes from FM 78 to Graytown Road (just past Autumn Run) with additional traffic lights at Hanover Cove and the Miramar subdivisions for enhanced traffic safety.

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This joint TxDOT expansion project will provide Randolph AFB with an option to build a NEW security entry gate off of FM 1604. More importantly, the FM 1604 expansion has already started to draw the attention of some influential business prospects. The Tier I & Tier II Street Maintenance plan implemented in 2007 will continue to be a priority for this City Council. We are already contemplating strategies to assist the Economic Development Corporation with completing its acquisitions along Toepperwein Road to get the actual work of the realignment project started. Our Economic Development Corporations primary mission will be:

Responsible commercial and residential growth for 2011. While we have made significant progress towards this end, we have not made enough. We will continue to be aggressive and the City Council will work closely with the Economic Development Corporation. As of May 2010, the entire EDC Board of Directors is filled with business owners and business experts from Converse. Please welcome the newest partner in this effort, our new EDC Director, Ms. Kate Silvas. We are confident that she is the right person to work with the EDC Board to both effectively strategize and develop a plan of action to achieve the next level of responsible commercial and residential growth.

For starters, the EDC has been asked to put a great deal of thought in ways of expanding mix use developments with the tedious task of preserving more of the historical elements of Converse.

The EDC has been asked to plan and implement steps to fulfill the Converse Town Square.

In the very near future, we will convene a Strategic Planning Process that will: Review the city's current Master Plan. Discuss what changes are necessary to the current Master Plan that will reflect our rapid population growth due to BRAC, economic opportunities due to business interests, and other areas of importance.

Develop a realistic Strategic Plan for implementing a 5 year and 10 year Master Plan that reflects actionable short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals. Converse has the distinction of saying what most cities in the US cannot say. WE HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET. It has been that way for FOUR years in large part to the citizens of Converse who hold us accountable for what we spend and how we spend it.

After 15 years, the Council decided to go in a new direction by hiring a new Auditing Firm for the City of Converse. They have worked out extraordinarily well. We hope to have a mutually beneficial relationship in the years to come.

Even during the most difficult times, we were fortunate to have been good stewards of the people's money. Yes, YOUR MONEY. No one 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, vehicles for both the Police and Fire/EMS departments, and allowed for hiring more personnel. This also allowed the Council to approve the purchase of a new Fire Truck.

In order to continue our track record of successfully balancing our budget and fairly compensating every employee, the Council recently approved an overhaul of the entire city pay system by hiring the Werling Group to complete a thorough and fair Employee Compensation Study. The goal of this Compensation study is to look at each employee, pay level, and determine whether the pay is in line with the job description and whether it is competitive based on specific criteria and best practice. This study will re-evaluate new areas of concern: such as Certification pay, language pay, and compensation for college hours earned.

Again, every employee is appreciated by this Council and we just want to make sure everyone is fairly compensated for the tremendous work performed. Rest assured..... that this Council will address this issue and all new concerns that arise with this study.

It is imperative that the Council find interested citizens to revitalize the Beautification and Environmental (B&E) Commission. This Council was instrumental in re-establishing the ordinance that convened the B&E Commission a few years ago. The B&E Commission is so vital to making Converse "GREEN." The Parks & Recreation Commission continues to innovate, discover, and implement family oriented activities that have proven to be of great value to our city and citizens. Many of the improvements the Council approved last year for North Park have been completed: A New Football Field, parking lot for the Red Schumann Pavillion, a new roadway, and additional restroom facilities. There is no greater joy than when I drive through North Park and see all the sporting activities, or fishing at the lake, and families spending quality time with their kids. Thanks again to Mrs. Pat Bryson and the Kneupper family for donating the acreage so many of us enjoy today.

Night in Ole Converse continues to grow tremendously. It is one of the most successful and anticipated social events of the year, next to Fiesta. The Parks & Recreation Commission really surpassed itself with the parade and festivities last October.

We continue to support Community Youth Programs. It is up to us to provide entertainment, events, and recreation for them here in Converse or they will look for it elsewhere. Just as sports are an integral part of our kids' development, so are academic and personal development programs. This Council is committed to partnering with non-profit organizations who conduct a variety of these types of programs for our kids. The long-time partnership we richly enjoy with the Judson Youth Sports Foundation, JISD, and Cardinals youth football organizations has been pivotal to the sustainability of our youth. We need more programs for our older teens. When we inundate our youth with positive options we significantly reduce opportunities for negative behaviors. Partnering with the Amateur Athletic Union and the JISD to conduct a sports festival this past summer was certainly the right thing to do. We are happy to announce the addition of two more youth sports organizations now operating from the Converse Parks. St. Monica Catholic Youth Organization and Randolph High School. We have extended them the privilege to use our SPORTS facilities to implement programs for our youth. These kinds of partnerships build a better Converse for everyone. These partnerships allow our kids to benefit from programs that develop self-esteem, team cohesion, sportsmanship, responsibility, and commitment. All necessary to be successful adults. The Council will continue to actively support these programs.

Mayor's Call continues every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. In 2007, this forum was developed to be able to have a one to one contact for all citizens. This forum has been a tremendous success. Now, four years later, it is the single most used method citizens use to express their concerns about issues and offer advice about city improvements. To my knowledge, Converse is the only city in the MetroCom that has Mayor's Call. This proactive approach gives Converse citizens an unrestricted opportunity to meet with the Mayor face-to-face.

Last year the Council promised to provide a conduit for our working citizens to have access to our City Council meetings. We also promised that we would explore all avenues of improving our communication with the citizens. Well, we've kept our promise.

The Council approved a New Digital Marquee projected to be up and operational right in front of City Hall sometime this month. It'll be able to provide up to 24 hours of roving digital announcements of all meetings, upcoming events, and special announcements.

The Council approved the acquisition of an outside website developer, Civic Plus, to revamp the entire [ConverseTX.net](http://ConverseTX.net) website to meet the demands of a growing city. The website draft is scheduled to be unveiled sometime later this month.

This Council agreed and voted unanimously that our citizens will have a quarterly newsletter. The publication and distribution will be done by the City. Many citizens have asked for it and now finally we are closer to providing it. Stay tuned.....

The Council is planning and discussing options for real-time videotaping of our City Council meetings for broadcasting on a public access channel. We have also considered the possibilities of incorporating live streaming video options on our new website. This way all Converse citizens will have multiple options of watching our Council meetings. So, as you can see, we continue to innovate and set the bar very high for ourselves based on what YOU, the citizens, ask us to do. Listening to you is not an inconvenience, it is why you elected us. We are seven individual elected leaders working towards the single goal of TAKING CARE OF THE PEOPLE OF CONVERSE. We may individually take different thought paths, but in the end, I'm hopeful each of us will do what's right. In closing, our future as a city is full of CHALLENGES, POSSIBILITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, and SUCCESSES. Collectively, we will tackle all challenges and use them as a stepping stone. We will look for the possibilities together. We will take advantages of only the right opportunities that will have a lasting impact on the growth of our city. And we will celebrate the successes together. In the months and years ahead, there is an aggressive agenda of planned accomplishments. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

B. Presentation of Proclamation #265, a Proclamation Honoring the Retirement of Police K-9 "Marco" (Mayor Suarez)

**("Marco" is actually "Marko")**

Mayor Suarez, CC & staff presented Officer Bocconcelli, who was promoted from K-9 Officer to Investigator, with Proclamation #265, a plaque & a City coin.

Officer Bocconcelli thanked the City for their generosity.

Council member Benbrook stated on behalf of the CC, she presented Officer Bocconcelli with a gift certificate from Pets Mart for Marko.

Mayor Suarez recognized JISD Board member Mr. Johnny Harris.

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. Gloria Weers of 104 Norris Drive West shared her concerns on not having adequate coverage of animal control. She commented on an incident that happened about 1 ½ weeks ago with a dog & there was no reason for this dog to have gone through 3 days of hell because we don't want to come out on Sat. or Sun.; she just doesn't understand it.

-Ms. Deanna Paez-Finch, a Senior at JHS, 6907 Autumn View stated 3 years ago her friend, Taylor started a club called "Second Chance". Ms. Taylor started the club because of Ms. Paez-Finch's family-her father was diagnosed with stage 3 lymphoma. Ms. Taylor felt that it was important to do something to help Ms. Paez-Finch's family. They will be hosting a fundraiser on Sat., Feb. 12 at Converse South Park from 11 AM to 5 PM, & invited those present to attend. The fundraiser will be benefiting "Locks of Love" & there will be many family activities.

-Ms. Polly Martinez owner of The Sweet Spot at 105 S. Seguin, stated she represents various voices of several local business owners. She thanked the CC for their service & support of their establishments. Their intentions are to grow with Converse. She stated lately they have noticed signage around town, which says our Mayor & CC do not support small business growth-in regards to the signage-she believes these people need to speak for themselves. She has had nothing but positive feedback & is in the process of expanding more. This is America & she does understand freedom of speech. Ms. Martinez stated she appreciated the COC & citizens of Converse.

8. Public Hearings

- A. None

Mayor Suarez stated there were no Public Hearings

9. Old Business

- A. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Code of Ordinance #44-155, Dated: September 21, 2010 Supplementing DIVISION 4. STOP STREETS by Adding Stop Signs at the Intersection of Civil Crossing and Appellate Way, Located within the Miramar Subdivision, so as to Improve Traffic Control Near the Park at Miramar (Second Reading) (Chief Jamison) (Interim City Manager)

Mr. Quintanilla stated there are no changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading presented. City Manager recommends approval.

Council member Pannell made a motion to approve agenda item #9 A. Council member Paschall seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

10. New Business

- A. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve the Final Plat Amendment for Cimarron Landing Phase II, Plat #121 (Interim City Manager)

Mr. Quintanilla stated this item was considered at the P&Z meeting on Jan. 24. The P&Z & City Engineer recommends approval.

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

- B. Discussion and Appropriate Action on the Request to Approve a Preliminary Plat #122, Toepperwein Market, a.k.a. CVS Pharmacy (Interim City Manager)

Mr. Quintanilla stated this is at the intersection of Kitty Hawk & Toepperwein. We have met with the developers & City Engineer who have reviewed the documents. There is a stipulation for approval & they have agreed to meet the requirement in the letter. The P&Z reviewed this & recommended approval on the Jan. 24 meeting.

Discussion included: Blockbuster & car wash will be taken down, CVS would be responsible for removing any graffiti & the number of trees that would be removed.

MPT Shadron made a motion to approve agenda item #10 B with the stipulations indicated in the letter. Council member Lopez seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- C. Discussion and Appropriate Action on the Request to Approve the Operational Guidelines for the Citizens on Patrol (COP) (Chief Jamison)

Chief Jamison gave a short update on the start of the Police Academy & Alumni Association. They came up with Cellular on Patrol & reported back to the Police Dept., being extra eyes & ears for them. Chief Jamison is looking

for a partnership with the Alumni & citizens. The current Board would like to re-instate this program & came up with the idea to see if the City would donate a car that would go up for auction. The concept is if the City donates the car, the Alumni puts together a graphics package symbolizing Converse Citizens on Patrol & pay for this. We would leave the light bar on the vehicle & install amber lights, radio has been removed, the cage would be removed, along with the siren. They would have to come/drive in pairs & work in designated areas. If they spot anything, they would use their cell phones & call our Dispatch to get an officer. He put together a working manual & has given it to the current Board. We would maintain the vehicle & use City gas; would be the 2004 Ford with 127,000 miles. Chief Jamison would have final say as far as the Citizens on Patrol Program. He gave a little history on Reserve Officers, laws have changed & we don't have any.

Mr. Ortiz stated he would like to meet Chief Jamison on some concerns & revision that may need to be made.

Council member Pannell made a motion to table this item. Council member Brown seconded the motion. It passed unanimously to table.

D. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Accept the City of Converse Police Department Annual Statistics Report (Chief Jamison)

Chief Jamison provided the calls for service for the past year.

- Criminal Investigation Division –conducted 32 Leads on Line & recovered \$19,248 worth of stolen property
- Dept. recovered an additional \$95,564 in stolen property
- Had 3 fatalities
- Court & Warrant Officer cleared 1,213 warrants – bringing in \$254,506.65
- With Officer Jones assigned to the DEA TF – received \$76,893 through seizures
- Went over animal calls & discussed the possibility of another Animal Control Officer
- Investigator's caseload averages roughly 50 each
- If they were allowed to get another person, Chief's 1<sup>st</sup> priority would be to get another Investigator
- Discussed the DWI's & DA Susan Reed with the "no refusal"

No action was taken.

E. Discussion of the Development of the Water Resources for the City of Converse (General Manager, SSLGC) (Interim City Manager)

Mr. Quintanilla introduced 2 representatives with the Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corp., Mr. Allen Cochrell, General Manager & Mr. Crocket Camp, Project Manager.

Mr. Camp stated to date SSLGC has developed 20,000-acre ft. of annual water supply in Gonzales Co. & the Carrizo Aquifer. He gave some information & an update on the Carrizo Aquifer. In addition to the water that Schertz-Seguin has developed in Gonzales, they have also acquired leases for the water rights & permits for over 3,000 acre ft. in Guadalupe Co. & they are looking at developing water in Wilson Co. What is occurring, is that other cities including Converse have been meeting to talk about forming a new Corp. to develop these water rights, including Converse, Schertz, Seguin, Selma & Cibolo. Mr. Camp stated the water quality is excellent & meets all safe drinking water standards.

Mr. Cochrell went over some of the specifics about the SSLGC; Corp. began in 1998 & began producing water in 2002. He had a presentation with a map, they own about 4,000 acres in Gonzales Co. They have a treatment plant & 8 wells that are in operation & are constructing 4 new wells. They have about 43 miles of pipeline starting

from the treatment plant & a 42" pipeline that comes up to Seguin & a 30" pipeline that goes to the Schertz area. The aquifer would be good for 100's of years if we all went down there & did our work.

Discussion included: what is going to be available here for permitting, all of the major permits have been issued for the seeable future, we are the only ones with permits in Guadalupe Co. & as things develop it will be much more difficult for further municipal development after these initial rounds of permits.

Council member Brown & Mr. Quintanilla visited the Water Treatment Plant a couple of weeks ago. They were impressed with the facilities, they were clean, staff knows what they are there for, the water we receive from this water treatment will be to the benefit of the COC, legislatures are focusing on the budget, re-districting & maybe some water legislation.

- F. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve the Use of the City Hall Conference Room #1 at 405 South Seguin Street for City of Converse General Election and Joint General, Special and Bond Election on Saturday, May 14, 2011 and if Necessary Runoff Election on Saturday, June 11, 2011 (City Secretary)

Ms. Hieronymus stated we could withdraw this item because Judson will not be coming to us, but they will use our facility on Sat., May 14, 2011 at 405 South Seguin on Election Day. Due to us not being in the Joint Election, there would have been a conflict in hours, we do Elections in-house to save money, with Michelle, Odie & Kie assisting with the COC's early voting.

Council member Paschall made a motion to approve agenda item #10 F with the above amendment that Judson will be sharing a polling place with us on Election Day. MPT Shadron seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- G. Discussion and Appropriate Action on a Request to Approve the Contract for a Fireworks Display as Part of the City of Converse 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration on April 9, 2011 at City Park South with the ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CO. (Interim City Manager)

Mr. Quintanilla stated the agreement is in the packet & this is a budgeted item. City Manager recommends approval.

Chief Wendt stated this is a show that would be similar to the show Live Oak had for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which he actually shot the show & he will probably shoot this one himself. He stated Zambelli is based out of Pennsylvania, have a little over 4,000 shells in it, lasts 21-22 minutes, they handle all of the permits. He can provide shot sheets if CC would like.

Discussion included: Buy Converse 1<sup>st</sup> and/or surrounding areas, Zambelli is a national co. & they contract with local people here in SA, \$15,000 includes everything (permits, transportation & paying the people to assemble them, etc.).

Council member Brown stated this was prior to our problems with places like Schuman Road & paying for that. He wants to be sure we are not putting any projects off in our infrastructure to pay for this \$15,000 firework display.

Mr. Quintanilla stated Station Street would not be done this year; we will be working on Crestway, Schuman Road & Toepperwein.

Mr. Ortiz stated everything looks fine with the documents & insurance coverage.

Council member Brown stated if he votes “Aye” it is as long as we don’t put off any other infrastructure.

Council member Paschall made a motion to approve agenda item #10 G. Council member Benbrook seconded the motion. It passed with 6 members (Suarez, Shadron, Benbrook, Lopez, Pannell & Paschall) voting in favor & 1 member (Brown) opposed.

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:

- Met with Dr. Mackey, JISD Superintendent regarding “Buying Converse” for Converse, Elementary, Converse Middle School & HS, got a good response; get a list & work with our EDC to get the word out on what they buy on a regular basis
- Bx. Co. pass through expansion from 1604 from Graytown Road to IH 10 will be starting next Spring
- Thank Police Chief for his new Citizens Police class
- Spoke with Mr. Quintanilla about getting some action on Schuman Road & the potholes on Toepperwein Road; there is a conflict with Schuman Road because it lays on the re-alignment; Mr. Hoppes will work on a temporary solution
- Special CC meeting Friday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 PM to get a briefing from the City Attorney regarding the Edwards Aquifer issue in executive session at the City Hall Conference Room (405 South Seguin)

B. Councilmember’s Report/Items of Interest

Council member Brown reported:

- A resident called him last week from 141 Meadow Dr. in regards to brush pick up, there was some confusion about the pick up from handouts given to him by the City & what is on the internet; he is in Zone 1, had 2 piles of brush & was charged \$50 for each pile of brush; Mr. Quintanilla will check into this & we need to take down the 2010 calendar on the on the web site

Council member Benbrook reported:

- In the State of the City, is our initial information on the censuses that Converse has grown from 11,500 to approximately 18,100; this is great & she thinks it is time that we do re-visit what we are going to do about our animal control situation & possibly we can begin to have a dialogue with the present shelter in Converse, which is a no kill shelter especially with the population we have to serve & should there be annexation within the next 2-3 years; she can work on this with Mr. Quintanilla, Chief Jamison & Mr. Cyphers – possible with dialogue Converse Animal Shelter – when they are ready she can bring it to CC

Council member Lopez reported:

- Web site will be coming to CC at the next meeting to discuss & get ideas on the designs being presented; the web site is set to launch in May

C. City Commission's Reports

Park and Recreation Commission – MPT Shadron reported:

-Sat., weather permitting; a member from the SA Audubon Society will be at North Park at 8:30 AM to help maybe develop a bird brochure for the area

Planning and Zoning Commission – Council member Paschall deferred to Mr. Quintanilla who reported:

-Considered the 2 plats considered by CC this evening

-Discussed an approach to the Master Planning Project & all members are on board & ready to proceed

Building and Standards Commission – Council member Pannell deferred to Council member Brown who reported:

-Discussed several properties: 308 Kneupper, 407, 503 & 505 Toepperwein & 203-205 South Seguin – Commission said they are indeed dangerous & need to be torn down

Mr. Quintanilla stated Building Official, Mr. Williams is working very closely with the new demolition contractor for the structure on 203-205 South Seguin, they have been put on notice they have 30 days to remove the structure & believe they can meet the deadline

C. City Staff Reports

(1) Report and Discussion of Significant Fire and EMS Events

Fire/EMS Chief Wendt reported:

-Chief Wendt, Asst. Chief & EMS Captain attended a meeting with our Medical Director & updates on what he is going to do the next coming year to improve services to the citizens, will work on credentialing personnel every year, adding/deleting some medications to our protocol, new CPR – they continue to work the EMS side

-Fri. had an incident at the new HS with a trash can fire in the bathroom, which didn't cause any structural damage but did require the evacuation of the students for about 30 minutes, Bx. Co. Fire Marshal's office was in area & responded & assisted Judson PD with the apprehension of the person responsible

-Continue to work on brush truck; hopefully new tank will be in tomorrow

-Submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report for 2010 in CC packets

(2) Report and Discussion of Significant Police Events

Police Chief Jamison reported:

-Thanked the Mayor for attending the new Alumni Class last week, he appreciates his support

-Next CC mtg., Asst. Police Chief Rheiner will be giving the annual racial profiling report

-In CC packets is a list of the Police equipment/vehicles; the "S" on the bottom of the page is a seizure vehicle & purchased with seizure money; the warrant car (Lincoln) was given to us by DEA; the "TF" came from the Task Force – there are quite a few cars which were purchased from seizure monies; the motorcycle is leased by Harley Davidson from New Braunfels

-Briefed on the K-9 Program –with Marko retired & if they do retire Caster in a couple of years & if we purchase another animal it will not be through City money but through the seizure fund

-Spoke on the colors of the patrol cars & going to the white & black & more visible

(3) Report and Discussion of Significant Public Works Events

Facility Director Mr. Hoppes reported:

**\*STREETS**

- Currently working on Gail Circle
- Measuring on Schuman Road
- Poured several sidewalks
- Put down over 12,000 lbs. of crack seal material (Rolling Creek, Miramar & Astoria Place)
- Working CPS & SARA to get the easement we need for North Park
- Put out about 37 bags of asphalt patch for potholes around town
- Working on doing traffic counts throughout the City & providing the counts to EDC
- Hired a new equipment operator

**\*GROUNDS**

- Busy picking up the brush for the 1<sup>st</sup> month in Jan. for zone 1
- Will look into the 141 Meadow Drive
- There were 5 people that requested to be picked up out-of-cycle
- Did equipment maintenance
- Hired an employee for the Grounds Dept.
- Fully staffed in all Depts. right now

**\*PARKS**

- Continue routine maintenance in both of the parks
- Building 8 new bird houses
- Did several replacements of light fixtures in City owned buildings
  
- Gail Circle – about \$9,000 to see to the end
- Avenue B – Eng. gave him a full set of plans & estimate is \$217,575.84; hoping to do in-house work to bring it to \$120,000, will contract out for curbs at \$20,800
- Project on Meadow Drive like cul-de-sac on Gail Circle & around the same amount of cost
- Ash Drive & Station Street – To be done with CDBG funds
- Toepperwein Road – that is requested to be improved from Kitty Hawk to Schuman Road, to do with in-house will cost - \$70,000; he would like to do a level up & if they are able to get a chip spreader in-house by the time they get this done, they can do a surface treatment on top of that to be adequate in the short term until the road gets approved under contract when we go out for bids on this
- We have \$65,000 in the budget to buy a used chip spreader, they are checking into other chip spreaders
- Crestway – another project; north bound lane to re-habilitate - about \$27,000; south bound lane - about \$24,000; sidewalk - \$15,660 = all in-house work
- Schuman Road – cut & patch, re-work the base
- North Park – the rocks are blocking water, we will build a bridge with handrails = \$5,000-\$6,000, possibly within the next 30 days they should be getting started

Utility Director Mr. Lupe Perez reported:

- Month of Jan.: 66 new deposits, 64 finals, 240 turn-offs for non-payment, 37 water leaks reported, City repaired 25 of the leaks, 12 were customer leaks, repaired a fire hydrant in Copper Field, repaired 30' of sewer line on the 200 block of Hilltop from clay to PVC, had 2 sewer back ups (Jeanette & Diana)-1 alright & 1 had tree roots (will have to remove the tree)
- Schuman Road – started last week to locate the valves that have cast iron pipes, we plan to abandon this by taking out the old pipe so we don't damage the new road that will be coming in the future

D. City Manager's Report

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

Mr. Quintanilla reported:

- Next CC agenda: Racial Profile Report, appointment to Chair the P&Z Commission, financial aspect of the water development, executive session regarding litigation, Resolution to support CDBG grant application for this year & EDC recommendation & support of the vehicle for Citizens on Patrol & Civic Plus update
- Due to the cold weather, take care of plants, pipes & pets

12. Adjournment

At approximately 9:40 PM, Mayor Suarez adjourned the meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2011.

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Al Suarez, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Adriana I. Hieronymus, City Secretary