

Minutes of Regular Meeting
City of Weston Lakes, City Council Meeting
Simonton City Hall, 35011 FM 1093, Simonton Texas 77476
Tuesday, July 27, 2010
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order. The regular meeting of the Weston Lakes City Council was called to order at 6:00 PM on the 27th Day of July 2010 by Mayor Mary Rose Zdunkewicz. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Mayor Mary Rose Zdunkewicz	Alderman Trent Thomas	Marshal Ronald Horowitz
Alderman Clifton Aldrich	Alderman Gary Owens	Kathy Nida
Alderman Denis DeLuca	Alderman Ted Case	

Public Present:

Shannon Purcell	Vern Flowers	Bill Ragle
Sonny Fisher	Carolyn Flowers	Jane Poe
Fran Aldrich	Chris Cerny	Bob Poe
Scott Head	Rhea Ragle	Russell Buestring

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Trent Thomas led the Council in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments.

- Scott Head, Fulshear Chief of Police. He wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Alderman Cliff Aldrich and his work in the EOC and his cooperation between the cities of Fulshear, Simonton & Weston Lakes. He recognized the public servants that service our communities and express his support of the police and firemen. He looks forward to working with the City of Weston Lakes.
- Jane Poe: Read on the website about the City Marshal's office and she is confused as to the marshal's exact duties for our city. She requested the marshal's PowerPoint presentation to be put on the website. She wanted to remind the council that the Weston Lakes became a "do-nothing City with a do-nothing Council" – now things are progressing and she does not understand where we are going.
- Russell Buestring, Weston Lakes POA: About 6 months ago the POA informed the City they were forming a general data base to be shared with the city as a communication tool. He wanted to ask the City if they would like to contribute their information (that was not confidential) to the database. Time is of the essence and the POA would like an answer within a week or so.

4. Mayors Comments.

- a. The budget Workshop was on July 24 at 2 PM. There were a few changes made to the budget.
- b. Budget Hearing will be on August 21 at 2 PM. The public is welcome to come and participate.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 22, 2010 and Special Meeting of June 8, 2010

A motion was made by Alderman Denis DeLuca to accept the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2010 and the Special Council Meeting of June 8, 2010 and was seconded by Alderman Gary Owens. The motion passed.

6. Finance

- Approval of JUNE Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Alderman Cliff Aldrich to accept the JUNE Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Alderman Ted Case. The motion passed.

7. Consider and Take Action on the adoption of a resolution authorizing membership and participation in one of the coalitions, hiring legal counsel and consulting services to negotiate with CenterPoint Energy, and suspending the CenterPoint rate increase to allow time to review the proposed changes.

- City Attorney, David Olsen spoke about the options available to the Council:
 - Reject the proposed rate increase
 - Join a Coalition and Suspend the proposed rates
 - Approve the proposed rates
- David Olsen said he recommends the City lean away from the Houston Coalition because they tend to make deals with CenterPoint that would not apply to the City of Weston Lakes.
- Any motion made by the Council should reflect which resolution the City chooses to go with.

A motion was made by Alderman Denis DeLuca to move and discuss the options available to the City and was seconded by Alderman Trent Thomas.

- Alderman Aldrich stated that members of the Council attended various meeting held by the two coalition. The City of Weston Lakes holds Original Jurisdiction for electric rates. CenterPoint made a presentation to the Mayor. The Houston Coalition represents several large cities, including Houston, Pasadena, and West University. The Gulf Coast Cities Coalition has about 30 smaller cities. By doing nothing, the City would be accepting the rate increase of \$94 million. The costs of objecting to the increase are paid by CenterPoint. The PUC can reject and "inappropriate charges" which could ultimately be charged (prorated) back to the city.
- David Olsen explained that the benefit of suspending the rates gives the attorney's time to reach a settlement before the terms of the suspension expire – and keep attorney's fees reasonable. It is unlikely that the City will be charged back any fees.
- Alderman Trent Thomas shared the African saying, "When elephants dance, the mice can get trampled". He would feel more comfortable joining a coalition of the smaller cities.
- Alderman Gary Owens: on item # 3 in the GCCC resolution dealing with hiring the law firm – isn't the city actually giving GCCC the authority to hire Lloyd Gosselink. David Olsen explained the City could pull out at any time. Alderman Owens also asked if there was some kind of agreement between the members of the coalition. David Olsen said, no, but the Coalition will keep all of the cities informed.

Alderman Denis DeLuca amended his motion to move to join the Gulf Coast Coalition and was seconded by Alderman Trent Thomas. The motion passed.

8. Consider and Take Action on creating 4 Deputy Marshal part-time, non-paid positions

- The Marshal corrected his request for 4 Reserve Deputy Marshals (part-time, non-paid). Alderman Thomas asked for further explanation as to what these Deputies would be doing. When the mayor activates the EOC, two deputies would work 12 hour shifts working the front gate, traffic management and security of the City of Weston Lakes. Since they will be here, the Marshal would like to have the deputies patrol the neighborhood 3 days a week. When on duty, they have the same rank and authority as any police officer in the State of Texas.
- The Sheriff's office would still come in and make reports, but the sheriff deputies are not patrolling Weston Lakes. They only come in when there is a call for service.
- Alderman Owens asked what communications have been made with the POA and how the Deputies would affect the current POA-security that patrols the neighborhood. The POA has an off-duty sheriff patrolling around. Reserve Deputy Marshals are non-paid and would save the POA money.

A motion was made by Alderman Cliff Aldrich to approve the four part-time, non-paid Reserve Deputy Marshal positions and was seconded by Alderman Trent Thomas.

- Under discussion: Alderman Owens stated that in business there was typically a formal document detailing the job description and scope of duties is in place before hiring anyone. Is there such a document for Deputy Marshal? Marshal Horowitz said the job description is posted on a national website.
- Alderman Thomas pointed out people that volunteer for this type of work because they want to maintain their professional certifications and credits.
- Alderman Owens asked if the gentleman working for the POA would transition over to the Marshal's office. The Mayor pointed out the City has nothing to do with POA business. Alderman Aldrich said once the marshal's office is established, the sheriff would be subordinate to the Marshal from a jurisdictional standpoint.
- Alderman Case said he would prefer to see all duties and job descriptions in place before hiring anyone so the Council and citizens are clear on what will be happening out the streets. Marshal Horowitz told the Council he did not want to delay creating these positions while the job descriptions were being written because he was interviewing people now.

The motion was amended by Alderman Cliff Aldrich to approve the four part-time, non-paid Reserve Deputy Marshal positions pending review of a written policy and procedures including scope of duties and job descriptions and was seconded by Alderman Trent Thomas.

9. Consider and Take Action on \$2,500 funding for 5 Police Bullet-proof Vests

- The Marshal said that any officer that wears a uniform is subject to attack and should wear a bullet proof vest.
- Alderman Thomas asked if there were any other funding sources. The Marshal said yes.
- Alderman DeLuca asked if the Council denies this request is it likely the Marshal could get the money somewhere else. The Marshal said yes.

A motion was made by Alderman Gary Owens to deny the requested \$2,500 for 5 Bullet-proof vests and was seconded by Alderman Denis DeLuca. The motion passed.

10. Report by Alderman Aldrich

- CERT Training is scheduled AUG 6,7,8. The class is almost full
- Alderman Aldrich has found clip-on flashers for CERT teams to use in reduced visibility
- Fulshear hosting and Emergency Preparedness Workshop tonight
- The HELP Door Hangers are in and will be delivered door to door by CERT teams.
- The City now has shirts with the logo on it and is worn by the CERT teams when participating in training.

4. Adjournment. *A motion was made by Alderman Trent Thomas to adjourn and was seconded by Alderman Denis DeLuca. The motion passed.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Attest:

Mary Rose Zdunkewicz
Mayor, City of Weston Lakes

Kathy Nida
City Secretary