

The Dallas City Council held its regular meeting on August 14, 2014, at 6 p.m. Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order with the following commissioners present: Esther Newberry, Harold Northup, Tom Schaefer, and Bob Weese.

Others attending the meeting were Sheryl Dennis, Dennis Hilliard, Adam Smith, Robert Berry, Ryan Thompson, and Chris Classen.

A motion was made by Weese, and 2nd by Newberry to accept the minutes of the July 24, 2014, meeting. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

A motion was made by Weese, and 2nd by Schaefer to pay bills. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

Adam Smith appeared regarding his Eagle Scout Project. He is planning on working on repairing and improving the tennis courts, the basketball court next to the tennis courts, and the grounds around these areas. He has asked for, and received, donations from the Dallas City School and Dallas City Township to help pay for the cost of the supplies that he needs to complete this project. He is estimating that he is going to need an additional \$500-\$800 to pay for the costs, and he asked the council if they would be willing to support his project and make a donation. A motion was made by Schaefer, and 2nd by Northup to donate \$500 to the Boy Scouts Troop #51 for the financial assistance of Adam Smith's Eagle Scout Project. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

Sheryl Dennis asked about the removal of sand bags from the recent flooding and if the city had any place to put them. The council informed her that, unfortunately, the city does not have a place to put them.

Mrs. Dennis also asked about West First Street being closed in front of the elevator. The council informed her that there is no plan, at this time, to do so. The elevator has indicated that they eventually would like to expand, but that there are no plans at this time. The street was recently closed temporarily so that the elevator could remove their scale system that they are replacing with a new one.

Ryan Thompson informed the council that the city street sign at the corner of East Fourth Street and Linn Street has been missing for several months and needs to be replaced. There are also several "Stop" signs in town that need to have the brush cleaned up around them, as well as the cemetery fence. He also feels that the city council minutes need to have more detail.

Mr. Thompson inquired about the status of the old Legion Hall and the old High School. The council informed him that since the city does not own these properties, there is nothing that they can do at this time. If either property becomes a nuisance, then the city can step in, clean up the property, and then place a lien on the property. He asked about possible grants being available to help with properties like these. The council informed him that there are no grants available at this time and that the city has no plans to do anything at this time.

Mr. Thompson asked about the boat docks. Mayor Higgins reported that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has gotten back to her, and they are looking into getting the city some money to help pay for the necessary engineering fees. Mr. Thompson also asked if there were any plans to have city clerk office hours at the city hall building. The council informed him that there were no plans for this at this time.

A motion was made by Schaefer to not have city clerk office hours at the city hall building. This motion died for a lack of a second.

Chris Classen reported that the cleaning and inspection of the sewer line on West First Street is scheduled to start on August 18, 2014. The contractor has agreed to also clean and inspect the sewer line on East Fifth Street from Elm Street to Oak Street and the line from the low rent housing to the old sewer plant. He also reported that the Notice of Award has been signed by the contractor for the removal of the old water plant. Chris is working on getting the old water plant cleaned out.

It was reported that Melton's Auto has gotten the equipment in for the new street department truck but has not gotten it installed yet.

Discussed selling the old street department truck. It was decided to advertise the truck for bid, as is. Bids will be opened at the September 25, 2014, meeting.

Dennis Hilliard reported that the police car has been cleaned.

Discussed the benefit for Paula Wright on August 16 and putting up barricades for the closure of Oak Street during the benefit.

Discussed the city cell phones and changing the plan so that a phone can be used to send a GroupCast message during non-business hours. The cost of the new plan, including taxes, would be approximately \$170 per month. A motion was made by Schaefer, and 2nd by Weese to change the cell phone plan so that GroupCast messages can be sent during non-business hours. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

Commissioner Schaefer reported that he is still waiting to hear back from some of the other cities in the area regarding the compensation and benefits their employees are receiving.

Discussed a property that appears to be in violation of the nuisance ordinance.

Discussed a ditch along Maple Street south of East Fifth Street. It appears that there is a drainage problem. Street Commissioner Northup has checked on this but is not sure if there is anything that the city can do because the ditch is on private property and is located in a very steep area.

A motion was made by Northup, and 2nd by Weese to adjourn the meeting. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Steven K Vorhies, City Clerk