

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 8, 2017

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017 AT THE BLUE RIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE COMPLEX LOCATED AT 408 W FM 545, SUITE 2, BLUE RIDGE, TEXAS 75424 AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION.

1. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll was called with the following members present, Mayor Rhonda Williams, Christina Porath, Amber Wood, Gerald Young, Allen Cunnyingham and Kevin Bell.
3. Consider, discuss and act upon a variance of a storage container located at 101 Pruett Street

Ms. Reyes, new owner of the property located at 101 Pruett, came before the Council requesting a closure of the open variance from the past owner. The property was purchased with a storage container being part of the purchase. The previous owner, Charles Powers, had a Variance dated 04/05/2015 where he was to upgrade the aesthetics of the storage container with proof of compliance by 10/07/2015. The container had been painted, but no other improvements had been made and the container remained an eye sore.

Amber Woods expressed concern if this issue was not addressed, then others would be inclined to have this type of storage and not consider the aesthetics. Ms. Reyes stated she would most assuredly like to have the storage container having a more pleasing appearance. She submitted to have a fence surrounding her property which would camouflage the bulk of the container. Ms. Reyes stated she would also like to have landscaping around the base of the container to lift the property appearance. Once the container is no longer needed after a garage is build, Ms. Reyes stated she would like to have the container removed entirely.

Christina Porath motioned to approve a continuation of the variance with a completion date by the end of December; otherwise the container must be removed. Gerald Young seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider, discuss and act upon a contract with developer JoAnn Frankum for the street improvements along Pruett and Scott Streets and the agreement of material used for said street improvements.

City Engineer David Perkins submitted a soft cost estimate for asphalt and concrete for the length of Pruett Street and Scott Street to the entry of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The cost estimate includes drainage, aprons and connect to TxDOT at FM 545. Normal traffic can be handled on the amount of concrete quoted with sub-grade and reinforcement and has been designed for 20 years of usage. The maximum support will hold 125 industrial trucks per day. Mr. Perkins encouraged the Council to choose concrete as the material as it will have a longer lifespan than asphalt. Due to the heat in this part of the country, asphalt cannot be given any lifespan. Mr. Perkins also offered a possible cost solution: to pave with concrete the length from FM 545 to just past the baseball complex entry and have the remainder in asphalt.

The timeline including designing the project could be as early as January or February if the design were to begin today. The problem would be the unpredictable weather during the winter months. Another issue will be the rerouting of residential

neighborhood traffic to the access of the baseball complex. Council discussed various scenarios of alternate routes with limited access to the baseball complex. Christina Porath suggested a possible alternative would be for BRASA not to have any home games unless an access could be made from South Church an easement next to Randall Moody's residence. Very little discussion was heard from JoAnn Frankum or Joe Goodman, developers of Paradise Estates. Mr. Goodman did ask what percentage of the project would be asked from the City. City Secretary suggested 40% with both Ms. Frankum and Mr. Goodman adamantly opposing stating an old agreement of 28% was thought to be high.

JoAnn Frankum requested signage stating "No 18-Wheelers" would be allowed after the street had been improved. There was not an agreement made between the City and JoAnn Frankum/Joe Goodman for their portion of the project.

Christina Porath motioned to have engineering begin the process to bid for 100% concrete for the entirety of the project with Kevin Bell seconding the motion. Motion carried 4-1 with Allen Cunnyngnam opposing.

5. Consider, discuss and act upon an agreement with Jim Clark regarding driveway material on Scott Street development.

Jim Clark purchased the southern end of Paradise Estates from JoAnn Frankum with the intention of selling the lots and placing mobile homes within the subdivision. Due to the poor condition of the road, Mr. Clark requested permission to bring in the mobile homes across the City's property at the north-western corner of Scott Street by crossing from Willow Lane, thru the corner of the City's lot, then on to the designated lots.

Mr. Clark's second request is to use rock as the material for driveways for the same mobile homes to be facing Scott Street instead of requiring concrete. It was questioned if the driveways would later be changed to concrete with Mr. Clark replying the driveways would remain rock. Mr. Clark offered his rock hauler to make a temporary roadway from Willow to his portion of the subdivision. Christina Porath motioned to approve the material for the driveways along Scott Street to be rock and to approve a temporary passage from Willow Lane to Scott Street with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Council further discussed and the question if procurement processes would be required due to a temporary roadway. City Engineer confirmed the City would not be required to procure bids for the roadway as City funds would not be used. Mr. Clark stated he was not paying for the rock for the temporary access. Christina Porath motioned to cancel her motion with Amber Woods seconding the cancellation of her motion.

Christina Porath motioned to approve Jim Clark using rock as the material for driveways along the Scott Street lots and allow access without being rocked from Willow Lane to Scott Street lots. Amber Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. First Public Hearing to receive public comment on the Proposed 2017 Property Tax Rate for the City of Blue Ridge

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:54pm and asked for those FOR the Proposed 2017 Tax Rate for the City of Blue Ridge to come forward. With no one coming forth, Mayor Williams requested those OPPOSING Proposed 2017 Tax Rate to

come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:54pm.

7. Budget Workshop for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Council reviewed the budget and chose Proposal #2 for the General Tax Fund utilizing the Effective Tax Rate + 3%. Council also chose Proposal #2 for the Water/Wastewater (aka Revenue) Fund as the budget choice.

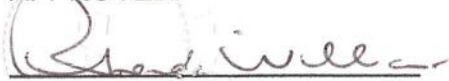
Due to budgetary costs, Council was informed of an issue on North Church in front of 202 N Church. An erosion issue has caused a major issue, which according to City Engineer David Perkins, could be very costly if not addressed. The water flows from both directions, north and south, and comes to the culverts in front of this residence. The issue resembles a collapsed sewer line which could ultimately cause a sink hole and completely collapse this area of North Church Street. A camera is being sought out to have the sewer line evaluated and ensure the stability of the sewer line. Drainage and right-of-way easements will likely need to be attained to abate the ongoing problem. The main issue will be to ensure what problems are fixed at the upper end of the issue does not flood at the lower part of the flow.

8. Citizen Participation.

No one was present for Citizen Participation.


9. Adjournment. Christina Porath motioned to adjourn with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Council concluded their meeting at 8:32pm.

APPROVED:



Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:



Edie Sims, City Secretary