

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FALLS
CITY OF MARLIN

On this the 10th day of September, 2013, the City Council of the City of Marlin, Texas convened in a REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING, at 5:30pm, the same being open to the public and having been posted as prescribed in Local Government Code, Section 555-041 with the following members present to wit:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Elizabeth Nelson
Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson
Rose Morin
Cecil Sparks @ 5:40pm
Billie Jean Scaggs
Tommy Tate
Arthur Allen

STAFF

William McDonald, City Manager
Sandra Herring, City Secretary
Justin Parker, Acting Fire Chief
Darrell Allen, Police Chief
Nick Brown, Human Resources
Kujo Jones, Waster Water Operator

1. Call to Order by Mayor Nelson @ 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call by Sandra Herring.
3. Certify Posting in accordance with State Law.
4. Invocation & Pledge by Tommy Tate & Arthur Allen.
5. Citizens Input:
 - Laverne Brown, 204 George Street, attacked by dog, police did nothing.
 - Rev. Waylon Sias, 909 Coleman Street, proposed tax rate, be considerate in your decisions.
 - Lonnie & Gail Garrett, 804 Jackson, announcement of meeting for in-house water solutions for citizens of Marlin. Will be held at Marlin Civic Center Thursday at 6pm and 7:30pm.
 - Sam Bosnack, 403 Capps, asking about animal shelter and resolution to animal problems.
6. Presentation for "HEB "Healthy Community Challenge".
Greg , Marlin HEB General Manager was present to encourage Mayor and Council to participate in the community challenge.
7. Proclamation for National Night Out, October 1.
Police Chief Allen was present to invite everyone to support the National Night Out 2013. It is a free program for the whole community.

8. Approval of minutes for August 12th and August 13th, 2013.

Councilmember Allen made motion to approve minutes with corrections given and as necessary.

Councilmember Tate seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Morin, Councilmember Sparks, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Tate, Councilmember Allen, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

9. Conduct Public Hearing on FY2013-2014 Budget and Proposed Tax Rate.

A. Presentation of Budget Overview by Staff.

Discussion lead by City Manager, William McDonald which covered:

Goals

- Enter More Cooperative Agreements with County
 - Housing Demolition
 - Street Repairs
 - Cooperative Purchasing
- Pave Ward, Coleman, Park and other Priority Streets Contingent on Funding
- Provide Contract Mowing Opportunities
- Issue More Citations for Code Violators, Especially High Grass and Debris
- Enhance Brush Collection Services and Enforce Fee for Service Collection of Brush Charges
- Cut Back Trees on City streets and Secure Tiger Mower
- Enhance Efforts to Retain Personnel and Hire Public Works Director
- Complete Parks Master Plan to Secure Grants
- Improve River Pump Operations Intake System
- Enhance City Revenues and Evaluate Options to Improve Use of Hotel/Motel Taxes

Accomplishments

- City secured \$5.9 million for Water & Sewer System Improvements
- City maintained paid Fire Department
- City repaired and improved several streets, sewer, water lines
 - 285' Sewer Line
 - Hwy 6 - Northridge - Fortune
 - Park St. - Agnes - M. L. King - Bennett
 - Street Repairs
 - Ripley - Emil - Lang - Austin
 - Elmwood - Falls St. - Old Belton

- City demolished several units and cleaned two City Municipal Park area sites, Bernard Street trees, and Roosevelt area illegal dumping locations, Bulldog Creek between Live Oak and Park.
- Supported community youth programs – 70 youth in Summer Track Club & Meet, MYAA Youth Sports Baseball/Football Varsity Boy's Basketball Summer/Spring Leagues, National Night Out, Faith Hope & Charity Harlem Globe Trotter Event, Marlin Music Festival & Carnival, Danario Alexander Football Camp.
- Enhanced Community/Economic Development
 - Shreive Chemical, High Cotton, Sanders Fertilizer
- Removed 328 Animals to Waco Animal Control Facility over 18 months/4th Highest # of 19 Cities
- Secured Package Treatment Plant to Ensure City Never Lost Water During Water Treatment Plant System Failure
- Secured New Brazos River Pump System Funded Primarily From \$300,000 CDBG Grant.
- Volunteer Coordinated Dingrando Park Pavilion, Falconer Park Improvement, and Community Garden Site

FY 2013/2014

- General Fund - \$2,393,603 / Water Fund - \$2,216,720
- Fund Balance - \$68,857
- Provides Same Tax Rate of .675 per \$100 Value
 - √ .03 Cent Tax Rate Increase Generates \$33,723
- Provides NO Change in Water/Sewer Rates
 - √ \$5.00 Base Rate Increase, From \$24.00 to \$29.00, Generates \$135,000 Annually
- Provides Reserve Funds of \$35,935 Difference Between Revenues and Expenses
- Budget Absorbs the Following Loss of Revenues- \$410,492
 - √ Municipal Courts- \$150,000
 - √ Fire Department Insurance Payments- \$60,000
 - √ Water/Sewer Revenues- \$155,892
 - √ Franchise Gas- \$18,500
 - √ Permits- \$26,400
- Budget Provides for \$1.2 Million Dollar TWDB Forgivable loan to allow for 1.5 miles of Water Line replacements and City-wide automated meter replacement project.
- Demolition of 20 Structures with \$20,000 Funding Level in Cooperation with County
- Elimination of Four Vacant Police positions one Vacant Fire Position and one Vacant Utility Crew Position for Savings of \$208,079.
- \$40,000 for Water Plant Technical Maintenance Contracts with KOCH and Aqua-Claire
- Fully Funded Library for \$40,000 and Minimum of \$40,000 to Chamber of Commerce.
- Provides \$12,000 for Mowing Contract Services.

- Sales Tax Increasing from \$605,288 in FY 09-11 to \$656,383 and Hotel/Motel tax from \$40,000 in prior years to \$70,000.

Unfunded Needs

- Hire 3 Public Works Crew Members- \$76,389
- Fund Street Overlay Repairs – Asphalt - \$383,300/Concrete - \$3.8 million
 - Coleman (RR Tracks/Hospital Area)
 - Park
 - Ward
 - Bennett (S. RR Tracks)
- Purchase Police Cars
 - Three (3) Police Units- \$99,000
 - Five (5) Police Units- \$165,000
- Hire Four (4) Police Officers- \$147,734
- Fund Additional Chemical Requests
 - Water Plant- \$45,000
 - Sewer Plant- \$10,000
- Purchase Tiger Mower (Mow Overhanging Trees, Ditches, Dams, Lagoons at Sewer Plant - \$20,000)
- Purchase Three (3) Public Works Trucks/Animal Control Truck (\$45,000)

B. Open Public Hearing for Citizens Comment at 6:10pm.

Juliet Evans, 720 Bryden, opposed to tax increase.

Brenda Clay, 115 N. Gresham, opposed to tax increase.

Waylon Sias, 909 Coleman, opposed to tax increase and need to repair fire hydrants.

C. Close of Public Hearing at 6:15pm.

Council discussed and choose to move to item 11 thru 14 and come back to item 10 at this time.

11. Discussion and Action of Resolution No. 13-047, concerning selection of a financial advisor.

Councilmember Allen made motion to accept Resolution No. 13-047 as presented.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Morin, Councilmember Sparks, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Tate, Councilmember Allen, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

12. Discussion and Action of Resolution No. 13-044, concerning Holiday Schedule for 2014.

Councilmember Sparks made motion to approve Resolution No. 13-044 as presented.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Morin, Councilmember Sparks, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Tate, Councilmember Allen, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

Councilmember Scaggs recuses herself from the meeting at 6:26pm.

13. Discussion and Action of Resolution No. 13-046, concerning award of housing contract consultant.

Mirenda Harris of Grantworks, formerly Kerbow and Associates, was present with Nick Brown, Human Resources for the discussion of item 13. Mrs. Harris explained the Kerbow has now merged with Grantworks Inc of Austin and is happy with joining of forces and believes that the overall benefit to the Marlin citizens will be a positive impact. She explained that Kerbow was overwhelmed with the processes and procedures for TDHCA and having a larger workforce will speed the process of getting approval for the citizens that qualify. It is an extensive process and in order to move forward with the three homes that had been approval prior to the merge, there needs to be a contract with Grantworks for that administration for which was advertised. Mr. Brown mentioned that the city went out for bid and Grantworks is the only bid returned. Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson expressed that he would like additional information on the three homes and what that process has entailed.

Councilmember Morin made motion to approve Resolution No. 13-046, as presented.

Councilmember Sparks seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Morin, Councilmember Sparks, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Tate, Councilmember Allen, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

Councilmember Scaggs re-entered the meeting at 6:50pm.

Council returned to Agenda Item 10.

10. Discussion and Action of Resolution No. 13-041, concerning First Reading of FY 2013/2014 Budget.

Discussions included public works director, overworking the employees, shortage on chemical cost, needs for new police cars and public works trucks. Hiring of additional workers, lawn maintenance contract, purchase of tiger mower, fill 4 vacant police positions, etc. How to find a resolution for the shortfalls in the budget: some say raise tax and water rates and others disagree. Further discussion of

pay scale with Human Resources Nick Brown explaining that a pay scale is more complex than numbers on a chart. It involves evaluation of where we are with the employees, longevity, market rates, multi job titles, etc. It involves dedication from the Council to fund such a pay scale. Mr. Brown indicated that he will begin work on the pay scale for the Council.

14. Future Agenda Items: Job Description and Pay Scale.

15. Adjourn.

Councilmember Morin made motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Sparks seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Morin, Councilmember Sparks, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Tate, Councilmember Allen, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2013.



Elizabeth Nelson
Elizabeth Nelson, Mayor

Sandra Herring
Sandra Herring, City Secretary