

Village Board of Aldermen
**Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen
Meeting Minutes**

Municipal Building, 301 N. Stagecoach Rd.
Thursday, September 4, 2008
6:30pm

Members present: Merle Stalcup, Curt Strong, Bob Pascoe, Stephen Peters, Mike Cooper

Members Absent: Carol Walls

Others Present: Dianna Zulauf – Village Secretary, Alan Rogers – Chief of Police, Alan Bojorquez – Village Attorney, Debbie Charbonneau – Tourism Director, citizens: about 60

Mayor Stalcup called the meeting to order at 6:30, quorum present.

Citizen Comments:

Susan Terry stated that Oncor's purposed power line route 129 is set to be approved September 11th. This route would run through the far east side of the Mill Creek Golf Course. A petition is circulating to ask Oncor to reconsider that route prior to September 11th.

Larry Nathanson asked the Board who's responsibility is it to clean out Salado Creek. Mayor Stalcup stated that the Village has cleaned out the gravel at the low water bridge in Mill Creek in the past through a permit from the state and that the city has placed a call to Mill Creek to see if they can assist the city in cleaning the creek.

Alderman Strong made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes dated August 21st. Motion was seconded by Alderman Pascoe, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stalcup made a statement to those present that the Board along with the Advisory Committee have gone through the budget process since June and that each line item has been carefully reviewed.

Unfinished Business:

1. Update on Flood Ordinance – Village Engineer John Simcik

Due to not having an updated flood ordinance available for review, this item was postponed.

2. 2008 – 2009 Proposed Village Budget

A sign-up sheet was available for those who wanted to address the board. Mayor Stalcup called each individual on the list one at a time to the microphone, asked them to state their name and address and gave them two minutes to speak.

Jack Gallager, 1416 Elizabeth Circle, turned his back to the Board and addressed the audience. Mr. Gallager stated his understanding of the process Bell County goes through regarding Salado's property tax on tax statements. Mr. Gallager encouraged voters to tell the Board what they want.

Raymond Carver, 100 Rock Creek, thanked the Board for allowing citizens to speak and appreciates their work. Mr. Carver stated that he has a petition of over 400 names of those who do not want a property tax. Mr. Carver asked Alderman Peters if it is possible for the budget to be readjusted. Alderman Peters stated that the proposed budget could be adjusted between now and September 18th.

Gerry Reihsen, 3901 Chisholm Trail, thanked the Board members for serving. Mr. Reihsen stated that he has met with Bruce Butcher with the City of Temple and has new information and possibilities for road repair in Salado and asked the Board to consider reading his report and looking at the road budget again. Alderman Peters stated that if there are new possibilities on road repair he advises the Board hold a workshop between now and September 18th to review those possibilities. Alderman Pascoe concurred.

Danney McCort, 406 Royal View, stated that he thinks the \$30,000 budgeted for engineering services for a sewer system be taken out. Mr. McCort suggested a MUD for the downtown area.

Mike Harwell, 801 Indian Trail, inquired about what kind of checks-and-balances are being used for the budget. Mr. Harwell wants the Board to be held accountable for the budget. Alan Bojorquez explained the state law on procedures for creating, adopting, and amending budgets.

Johnny Watson, 1401 Elizabeth Circle, stated that many retired people's income is set and a property tax would hurt those people.

Bob Howerton, 63 South Main, stated that the Board has a tough task and appreciates their efforts. Mr. Howerton spoke in favor of a tax, doesn't want a tax but knows it's necessary.

Alan Mantanona, 906 Cedar Circle, stated that he believes citizens will not submit to a tax unless the Board can prove they are necessary. He believes the Board has not been responsible with the city money in the past. He asked the Board to live within their means.

Bryan Fritsch, 2519 Hester Way, stated that he favored a tax as a necessary evil a year ago, but now feels that the Board has exceeded what is necessary.

H.T. Crowll, 1501 Elizabeth Circle, wanted to know why the Board was going through the process of having a public hearing if they get the final decision making power anyway.

Howard Bell, 1301 Indian Trail, wanted to know why the Board did not take the Advisory Committees recommendation of .07 tax. Mayor Stalcup stated that the Board did take that committees recommendation on the exemptions and that the increase in oil and road repair have made the purposed .1777 necessary.

Tim Fleischer, 912 Cedar Park, asked the Board when the decision was made to no longer use the gentleman the city used to use for filling pot holes. Alderman Cooper replied that the city was in need of a full time maintenance worker; therefore, no longer needed the gentleman that was filling pot holes on a part-time basis.

Mr. Fleischer asked why the city has abandoned the process of using chip & seal by the county for road resurfacing, and why the agenda does not have the words "public hearing" beside each item on the agenda that is a public hearing item. The words "Public Hearing" are on the agenda in large bold print at the top of the page. Alan Bojorquez stated that there is no statutory requirement on how an agenda is to look or be formatted, it is up to each city.

Mayor Stalcup explained that the budget process has been reviewed by Salado's attorney, CTCOG, and the auditors and has been found to be in compliance with state law. Salado has received high ratings in the past audits.

3. 2008 – 2009 Proposed Tourism Budget

Mayor Stalcup opened the floor for comments. There were none.

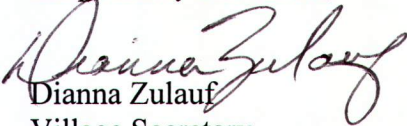
Announcements:

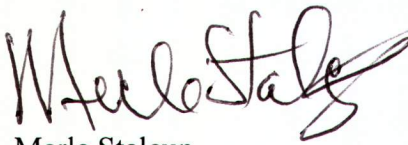
1. Next scheduled Board meeting is June 16, 2008 at 6:30PM.

Motion was made by Alderman Strong to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm. Motion was seconded by Alderman Pascoe, motion carried unanimously.

For copies of all handouts, please contact the Village office at 947-5060.

Respectfully submitted,


Dianna Zulauf
Village Secretary


Merle Stalcup
Mayor