

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CULBERSON
TOWN OF VAN HORN

*
*
*

**Regular Meeting of the City Council, Town of Van Horn, Monday, November 26, 2018
City Hall, 1801 W. Broadway, Van Horn, TX.**

PRESENT:

Mayor	Pam Young
Mayor Pro Tem	Lyndon McDonald
Alderman	Nuny Morriss
Alderman	Rudy Hinojos
Alderman	Ryan Martinez
Alderman	Michael Garibay
City Secretary	Fran Malafronte
Manager Gas	Edward Torres
Asst. Chief Water Operator	Jaime Hudson
City Attorney	Steve Mitchell
Press:	Gilda Morales, Van Horn Advocate.
Staff:	San Juana Gamez, Jodi Corrales, Rebecca Mendias
Visitors:	None.

INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Young called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm after ascertaining that a quorum was present and that the notice of meeting was posted according to the Texas Government Code Section 551 on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ald. Morriss made and Ald. Garibay seconded a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 29, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Ald. McDonald made and Ald. Hinojos seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented by City Administrator Fran Malafronte. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Ald. McDonald made and Ald. Martinez seconded a motion to approve the Payment of Current bills in the amount of \$94,754.27. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS:

Mr. Torres, Utilities Director reported that “November was a crazy month” citing holidays, vacations, fewer employees and many leaks. The new ground water storage tank is moving along faster than anticipated. The cap will be lifted into place this week. The next step will be X-ray of the welds to be sure they will hold, then on to sandblasting. All in all the tank is ahead of schedule and should be completed sometime in December. Gas usage at the Sand Plant has dropped due to the Holidays. Sand production is expected to pick up after January, with an anticipated spike in gas usage. Chalk Mountain, the trucking company located at the Sand Plant is closing its Van Horn operation to concentrate on their Kermit location. Rumor has it a new trucking company will take its place. Gas reading in the town are rising due to the colder weather. Relatively no leaks have been reported on the gas side of operations. Ramon Garcia will be in training next week to get his gas operator’s certification. Mr. Torres reported that there are many leaks on the water side of operations. These leaks are being addressed by the Water Department.

An all-out effort will be made to clean out the many arroyos located throughout the town. City, County, TXDOT and Railroad employees will try and work together on this effort.

REQUEST FROM DAVID SCOTT TO HAVE COUNCIL REVIEW COMMERCIAL WATER BILL AND CONSIDER REDUCTION:

Ald. McDonald suggested we table this matter until we do the new Rate Schedule for the new Budget effective 4/1/2019. All agreed to table this matter.

REQUEST FROM JB ENGLE TO HAVE SEWER LINE EXTENDED TO THE ETJ:

Ald. McDonald made and Ald. Hinojos seconded a motion to approve the request of JB Engle, an extension of the sewer line to property adjacent the City Limits. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-11-008: STREET CLOSURE FOR THE LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 2018:

Ald. Morriss made and Ald. Martinez seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-11-008, Closure of the Street for the 2018 Lighted Christmas Parade. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-11-008

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VAN HORN, TEXAS FINDING THAT THE “LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE” EVENT SERVES A PUBLIC PURPOSE FOR THE TOWN OF VAN HORN, TEXAS; AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A PORTION OF BUSINESS LOOP 10 (BROADWAY) FOR THE PARADE; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT:

WHEREAS, Town of Van Horn requests the temporary closure of a portion of Business Loop 10 (Broadway), located within the Town of Van Horn incorporated area; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Town of Van Horn finds that the “Lighted Christmas Parade” event serves a public purpose, and in cooperation with the State of Texas ensures that the temporary

closure of the State's right of way will be performed within the State's requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorizes the Town of Van Horn to enter into the Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right of Way with the Texas Department of Transportation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VAN HORN, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right of Way, attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and made a part hereof, between the State of Texas and the Town of Van Horn, Texas, for the temporary closure of a portion of Business 10 (Broadway) for the Lighted Christmas Parade, is hereby approved, and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute said contract on behalf of the Town of Van Horn and to transmit the same to the State of Texas for appropriate action.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 26th day of November, 2018.

Pam Young
Mayor

ATTEST:

Fran Malafronte
City Secretary

REQUEST FROM BILL STORY, LAND DEVELOPER TO HAVE COUNCIL CONSIDER/APPROVE REDUCTION/WAVING TAPS (WATER, GAS, AND SEWER) FOR (12) TWELVE NEW HOMES TO BE BUILT IN THE AUSTIN HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION:

Ald. Martinez made and Ald. McDonald seconded a motion to approve reducing the tap fee from \$600.00 to \$300.00 per home, only if all 12 homes are built. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVE 2019 HOLIDAY CALENDAR FOR CITY EMPLOYEES:

Ald. Garibay made and Ald. Morriss seconded a motion to approve the 2019 Holiday Calendar for City Employees. Motion carried unanimously. (See next page)

Intentionally left blank.

2019 Holidays

Day	Date	Holiday
Tuesday	January 1, 2019	New Year's Day
Monday	January 21, 2019	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday	February 18, 2019	Presidents' Day
Friday	March 1, 2019	Texas Independence Day
Friday	April 19, 2019	Good Friday
Monday	May 27, 2019	Memorial Day
Thursday/Friday	July 4 & 5, 2019	Independence Day
Monday	September 2, 2019	Labor Day
Monday	October 14, 2019	Columbus Day
Monday	November 11, 2019	Veterans Day
Thurs/Fri	November 28 & 29, 2019	Thanksgiving Holidays
Wed/Thurs/Fri/Tues	December 25 26 27 & 31, 2019	Christmas Holidays/New Year's Eve

Each employee shall have their birthday off. Saturday birthdays will be taken on Friday, and Sunday birthdays will be taken on Monday (effective 4/10/2012). Half day, November 27, before Thanksgiving.

REQUEST FROM EMPLOYEES TO HAVE COUNCIL CONSIDER CLOSING ON DECEMBER 26, 2018 SO THEY DO NOT HAVE TO RETURN FROM OUT OF TOWN ON CHRISTMAS DAY FOR WORK ON DECEMBER 26, 2018:

Ald. McDonald made and Ald. Garibay seconded a motion to close City Hall on December 26, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVE NEW LIGHTING OPTIONS FOR THE OKEY D. LUCAS MUNICIPAL PARK:

Ald. Morriss made and Ald. Garibay seconded a motion to approve replacing 8 light poles with 8 (three light per pole) poles that cost \$139.00 each to be purchased at Home Depot. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FROM JAIME HUDSON, WATER OPERATOR TO INFORM COUNCIL OF TCEQ INVESTIGATION REQUIRING CERTIFICATION BY AND ENGINEER OF THE LAGOONS AT THE GOLF COURSE REGARDING POND LINERS:

Mr. Hudson explained to the Council that TCEQ has launched an investigation regarding verification of pond liners for the ponds located at the Golf Course. He told Council that we

have to hire an engineer to verify that the ponds are lined in accordance with TCEQ specifications. If they are not lined we need to correct this and have them lined to TCEQ specifications. No action taken.

REQUEST FROM ALDERMAN MARTINEZ TO GET QUOTES FOR “WELCOME TO VAN HORN” MONUMENTS:

Quote received was for over \$100,000.00. Council has requested we try and get less expensive quotes from other vendors. Table.

REVIEW/APPROVE QUOTE FROM ESS TO INSTALL TWO (2) BYPASS GENERATOR SWITCHES FOR THE WELLS:

Ald. McDonald made and Ald. Hinojos seconded a motion to approve the quote from ESS for the installation of two bypass generator switches and programming for \$16,017.74. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVE QUOTE FROM ESS TO INSTALL ONE NEW WATER METER AT THE NWS, WHICH WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE SCADA SYSTEM:

Ald. McDonald made and Ald. Garibay seconded a motion to approve the quote from ESS for the installation of one new water meter at the NWS with SCADA connection for

\$7,983.00. City to buy the flow meter and have ESS install it as quoted above. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT PROGRAMS:

No report given.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND COMMITTEES:

Council asked that City Administrator Fran Malafronte look into having the Street Light located at Cedar and Rivas turned, and upgraded to a 400 watt bulb.

ADJOURNMENT:

After no further business, Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Pam Young
Mayor

Fran Malafronte
City Secretary