

**SPECIAL MEETING  
LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 27, 2015**

**6:00 P.M.**

**CLARK LIBRARY-MASONIC BUILDING, 217 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR, LOCKHART, TEXAS**

**Council present:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez  
Councilmember Juan Mendoza  
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson

Mayor Lew White  
Councilmember John Castillo (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)  
Councilmember Benny Hilburn

**Staff present:**

Vance Rodgers, City Manager  
Peter Gruning, City Attorney  
Sandra Mauldin, Economic Dev. Director  
Sean Kelley, Water/Wastewater Superintendent

Connie Constancio, City Secretary  
Jeff Hinson, Finance Director  
Dan Gibson, City Planner

**Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council:** Matthew Sturn, Citizen; and, Charles Scheler of TRC Solutions.

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Lew White called the special meeting of the Lockhart City Council to order on this date at 6:00 p.m.

**ITEM 2. CITIZENS/VISITORS COMMENTS.**

Mayor White requested citizens to address the Council. There were none.

**ITEM 3-A. READING OF A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT AND APPRECIATION BY THE LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZING COUNCILMEMBER KENNY ROLAND FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOCKHART COMMUNITY.**

Mayor White read the Resolution of Respect to Councilmember Kenny Roland. The Council expressed their most sincere condolences to the Roland family.

**ITEM 3-B. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMATION ACCORDING TO CIVIL SERVICE LAW (SECTION 143.013) OF MR. JOE A. GORMAN AS THE CITY MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF LOCKHART EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2015.**

Mr. Rodgers stated that interview for the soon vacant position of Fire Chief were complete by a well qualified panel composed of Fire Chief Jerry Doyle, Emergency Services District Fire Chief Ken Bailey, and Public Work Director, Lee Weatherford. After deliberations, the panel presented to the City Manager their recommended list of the most qualified candidates for the position replacing retiring Fire Chief Jerry Doyle. The City Manager further interviewed top candidates and has offer the position to Mr. Joseph A. Gorman who previously served as Fire Chief at Texas City contingent on the confirmation by the City Council according to Civil Service law.

**ITEM 3-C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FILLING THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ONE COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE.**

Ms. Constancio provided information about the timelines to hold a special election to fill the unexpired term for the At-Large position on either March 31, 2015 or May 9, 2015, which is the next uniform general election date as prescribed by the Texas Election Code. She stated that the Caldwell County Elections Administrator will be holding an election on May 9, 2015, therefore if the Council chose to hold the election on May 9, 2015 it would be recommended to hold it as a joint election with Caldwell County. There was discussion.

Councilmember Hilburn made a motion to direct staff to return with an Ordinance ordering the special election to be held on May 9, 2015 and to contract a joint election with Caldwell County. Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**ITEM 3-D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AFTER PRESENTATION REGARDING PROPOSED RICHLAND DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSOCIATED POSSIBLE FUNDING.**

Mr. Rodgers and Charles Scheler of TRC Solutions provided details about the drainage improvement plan for Richland Drive.

Matthew Sturn, 103 Richland Drive, expressed concern about the entrance to Richland Drive and about the drainage improvements that are planned for the area. Mr. Rodgers replied that the entrance to Richland Drive is a State Highway (142) and that the City will work with Texas Department of Transportation to assist or pursue permission for the City to improve the drainage.

**ITEM 3-E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING DRAINAGE AND STREETS, UTILITIES, PARKS, AND PUBLIC BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, AND FOR A FIRE TRUCK, FIRE BUILDING EXPANSION, AN EMERGENCY WEATHER EARLY WARNING SYSTEM, A PARKS CIVIC BUILDING, AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED FUNDING, AND POSSIBLY AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO BEGIN PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S INTENT TO ISSUE NOT MORE THAN \$16 MILLION IN CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION TO FUND THE PROJECTS *WITHOUT INCREASES IN UTILITY RATES OR OTHER RATES* BUT WITH A POSSIBLE SMALL INCREASE IN GENERAL FUND REQUIREMENTS TO FUND PRIMARILY PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS.**

Mr. Rodgers and Charles Scheler of TRC Solutions provided detailed information about the proposed water, sewer and drainage infrastructure improvements.

There was discussion.

Mr. Rodgers provided additional information about the following projects that are proposed to be funded, if approved by Council, and if certificates of obligation are obtained:

Public Safety Projects

- Advanced weather warning siren system
- Fire truck to replace old truck
- Fire station building expansion at EMS station

Other Projects

- City Park community center
- Playscape for Pecos Park
- Curbing: Replace bad causing drainage issues
- Pave gravel roads
- Elevator and offices at City Hall
- Elevator at Fire Station

Mr. Rodgers provided information about the cost estimate synopsis for the drainage, streets, public safety and other projects as discussed that would total approximately \$19,225,890. Savings by utilizing city crews, impact fees and existing funds would reduce the total amount of projects costs to approximately \$15,893,002.

If certificates of obligation are obtained, the debt schedule year 2016 through 2023 with debt leveling out in 2035. There was discussion about the proposed method of payment and funding sources.

Mr. Gibson provided information about the Lockhart Sustainable Places Project. The project is estimated to cost \$600,000. If the Sustainable Places project is included in the certificates of obligation, the total amount borrowed would be up to \$17,000,000 with annual payments increasing by \$24, 960 in 2016 and gradually to \$48,711 in 2023. There was discussion.

Mr. Hinson stated that if the Council chooses to proceed with the certificates of obligation, a Resolution stating that fact with information will be presented for the Council's vote during the February 3, 2015 meeting. Additional requirements would thereafter be carried out such as public notices.

Mr. Rodgers reminded the Council that the City has not increased water or sewer rates in many years yet Councils have been able to continue to make infrastructure improvements because of the ability to finance the costly yet necessary improvements through certificates of obligation due to the Finance Department doing a great job at keeping the City of Lockhart in a great credit rating.

Councilmember Hilburn made a motion to direct staff to proceed with the public notice requirements that is in the intent of the Council to issue certificates of obligation not to exceed \$17 million to fund drainage and streets, utilities, parks, and public building improvements, and for a fire truck, fire building expansion, an emergency weather early warning system, a parks civic building, and other public building improvements. Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

**ITEM 3-B. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMATION ACCORDING TO CIVIL SERVICE LAW (SECTION 143.013) OF MR. JOE A. GORMAN AS THE CITY MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF LOCKHART EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2015.**

Mr. Rodgers requested that the Council vote to confirm the appointment of Joe A. Gorman.

Councilmember Michelson made a motion to confirm the appointment of Mr. Joe A. Gorman as the City Manager's appointment to the position of Fire Chief for the City of Lockhart effective February 1, 2015 according to Civil Service law (Section 143.013). Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**ITEM 3-C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FILLING THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ONE COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE.**

Councilmember Michelson requested if, out of respect to the Roland Family, ordering the special election could wait to distribute candidate packets until after February 3, 2015.

Mr. Gruning stated that because the Secretary of State has already distributed the calendar of required election deadlines/required, he recommended that the Council authorize the City Secretary to proceed in following the May 9, 2015 calendar, which would make the first day to apply for a place on the ballot February 28, 2015.

**ITEM 3-F. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING CITY COUNCIL GOALS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET AND POSSIBLY BEYOND.**

Councilmember Hilburn made a motion to table this item until the February 3, 2015 Council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**ITEM 4. ADJOURNMENT.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2015.

CITY OF LOCKHART



*Lew White*  
Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Connie Constanancio*  
Connie Constanancio, TRMC  
City Secretary