

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 3, 2013

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

The Parker City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at Parker City Hall, 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas 75002.

Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers Stone, Standridge, Levine, Pettle and Taylor were present.

Staff Present: City Attorney James Shepherd, City Administrator Jeff Flanigan, Finance/H.R. Manager Johnna Boyd, Police Chief Bill Rushing and Officer Kenny Price.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMERICAN PLEDGE: Lou Zettler led the pledge.

TEXAS PLEDGE: Jim Threadgill led the pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS The City Council invites any person with business before the Council to speak to the Council. No formal action may be taken on these items at this meeting. Please keep comments to 3 minutes.

Joe Sterk, 4200 Pecan Orchard – Mr. Sterk feels the City should pay for its water usage.

Lou Zettler, 4202 Donna Lane – Mr. Zettler was unhappy with his recent experience with the Zoning Board of Adjustments. He requested a solid wood fence on a portion of his property to reduce the sound of traffic on Parker Road. He feels the fencing requirements are discriminatory and the fee of \$600 poses a barrier for citizens to come forward with more variance requests.

John Wingfield, 5402 Kara Lane - He told his story of his arrest on September 18, 2012 by Officer Messerole. He was attacked by a drunken friend, called 9-1-1 and he was arrested for assault. Officer Messerole entered his home against his civil rights. He wants to reclaim his reputation, the City to reimburse him for his \$8,000 in attorney fees, his arrest expunged from his records, all arrest photos removed from the internet, an apology letter from the City and Officer Messerole fired.

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

1. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 6, 2013. [SMITH]

MOTION: Councilmember Pettle moved to approve the minutes as amended. Councilmember Standridge seconded with Councilmembers Stone, Standridge, Levine, Pettle and Taylor voting for. Motion carried 5-0.

2. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 20, 2013. [SMITH]

Mayor Marshall requested “in the Preserve” be removed from the Motion for Item 8 on page 4.

MOTION: Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the minutes as amended. Councilmember Pettle seconded with Councilmembers Stone, Standridge, Levine, Pettle and Taylor voting for. Motion carried 5-0.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2013 – 2014 PROPOSED BUDGETS. [BOYD]

Mayor Marshall opened the second of two public hearings at 7:16 p.m.

The proposed general fund budget is \$3,036,333 and proposed proprietary budget \$2,463,000. The water budget is supported by service rates for water, sewer and solid waste rather than tax dollars.

Mayor Marshall noted due to North Texas Municipal Water Districts rate increase, the water and sewer rates will be increasing this next year. This is the first increase in water rates in three years.

John Wingfield, 5402 Kara Lane – He feels the \$109K should be left in the City reserves to put back into the budget when major expenses occur. He is strongly in favor of body cameras for each police officer. He doesn’t understand the need for a 500% increase in Police Department over time. He does not feel there is a need for a full-time administrative assistant with benefits to the police department when there are six officers that can complete their own paper work. He would rather see an increase in the fire department budget and put firefighters in the fire station to improve the fire department’s response times.

Mayor Marshall responded to Mr. Wingfield’s questions. All of these issues were discussed in our planning and budget meetings. Our City received a substantial sum of money from a sales tax audit performed by Collin County. With the way our year runs, there is no other way for the citizens to benefit from that money other than a tax rate decrease. The primary purpose for the withdrawal from the reserve account is that there was a substantial sum of money in the reserve account that the City did not spend this year for economic development with the Bedell developer. Money was set aside to subsidize some of the developers costs to install

water meters at an estimated \$7,000 per lot. None of that money was spent. The total was approximately \$175,000. We are withdrawing \$109,000 total from our reserve account and giving the citizens a tax break in the process. We received budget requests from both police and fire chiefs. Police chief requested staff, and the fire department stipends. The funds were allocated on the budget line by line basis.

Joe Sterk, 4200 Pecan Orchard – Again stated he wants the City to meter and pay for their water. Sycamore Road needs to be fixed rather than just repaired. He would rather the Council not lower the tax rate, but have Sycamore road fixed.

Mayor Marshall noted that later on the agenda is a report from the Drainage Subcommittee that is looking at drainage issues throughout the City. The waterline must be paid for from the water department budget. This is a costly project and will require issuing bonds.

David Leamy, 5801 Rathbone Drive – What is the savings of the old tax rate on the current tax rolls? \$110K could have gone back into reserves and/or capital improvements or road improvements. He was concerned with the difficulty to raise the tax rate back up to cover future projects. Would like to see any savings be put back for specific projects such as road and water that are going to be substantial dollars. Would also like the City to look into federal dollars left over the re-investment act that built the two lanes on Bethany and if there is money still available, these are matching funds and use this money to match those funds.

Mayor Marshall closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2013 PROPOSED TAX RATE. [BOYD]

Mayor Marshall opened the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

The City currently has a 19 ½ month surplus of funds.

Franklin “Lash” Larue, 4408 Sycamore – He feels the City should keep the money and put it back to repair the infrastructure. Spending the money because you have it does not make sense. If you have it, save it and not ask for a future tax rate increase.

John Wingfield, 5402 Kara Lane – He asked, if we reduce the tax rate now, are there any projections as to when the rate will have to be raised back up. Mayor Marshall stated no. Save the money for future economic development.

Joe Sterk, 4200 Pecan Orchard – Agrees with others, put the \$110,000 in reserves and pay down current debt.

Lou Zettler, 4202 Donna Lane – favors any discounts to the citizens.

Mayor Marshall closed the public hearing at 7:55 p.m. and noted Council is scheduled to take a vote on the proposed budget and tax rate on September 10, 2013.

5. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE 666 REGARDING BULK TRASH PICKUP. [MARSHALL]

Bulk trash pick-up has been changed to a monthly service and it seems that Section 1, A &B and Section 2 needs to be re-evaluated.

Ordinance 666 will be modified so residents may put their bulk trash, including brush, at the edge of the roadway no more 7 days in advance of scheduled pick up.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Levine moved to amend Ordinance 666 Section 1. A. and B. so neither brush nor bulk items may be placed out at the roadway more than 7 days in advance of the pickup date; and a statement that reads the City recommends items be placed no more than 8 to 10 feet from the road way. Councilmember Taylor seconded with Councilmembers Stone, Standridge, Levine, Pettle and Taylor voted for. Motion carried 5-0.

6. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON DRAINAGE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT. [FLANIGAN]

The drainage subcommittee reported that they would like Estate Lane to be a priority and for the City's engineer to develop an engineering and construction plan. Gregory Lane was considered but the residents of Gregory Lane asked not to be considered at this time. The drainage committee asks for residents to report ongoing drainage problems so those problems may be evaluated.

ROUTINE ITEMS

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- September 10th – Special meeting to vote on proposed FY 2013-2014 budget and tax rate
- September 10th – Public Hearing on SUP request from Nathan and Bonnie Shea.
- Training dates and schedules for boards and commissions.
- Specific Use Permit for a barn on Dublin Road
- Review and revisions to Ordinance 515
- Future department reports to include reports from the Court

8. ADJOURN

Mayor Marshall adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

APPROVED:

/s/ Z Marshall
Mayor Z Marshall

ATTESTED:

APPROVED on the 15th day of
October, 2013.

/s/ Carrie L. Smith
City Secretary Carrie L. Smith, TRMC, CMC

EXHIBITS
Public Comments