

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 28, 2006

A. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Gainer called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call – Excused Absences Councilmembers present included Councilmember Harris, Councilmember Rast, Councilmember Overhauser, Councilmember Stockton, Councilmember Trulove, and Councilmember McKeehan. Staff members present included Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Conklin, Mr. Montague, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Sale, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Ableman, Mr. Quarles, Mr. Conley, Mr. Bailey, Ms. Westhoff, Mr. Gilman, Ms. Rosier, and Ms. Showalter. Mayor Gainer stated that Councilmember Huff requested to be excused due to illness. Councilmember Harris moved to approve the request. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried unanimously.

C. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of February 14, 2006 were approved as distributed.

D. Claims and Vouchers nos. 85210 through 85302 in the amount of \$470,481.85 were approved as read.

E. Claims for Damages None

F. Small Contracts None

G. Citizen Participation Christie Bruntlett, 499 Annie Place, stated that she would like to see the City slow down on annexation and building and think about how we want our community to grow. She thinks a moratorium on building should be considered. Bonnie Eccles, 214 N 6th St., stated that we have a lot of traffic because of EWU. One concern is that EWU decided not to build an elevated walkway over Elm Street. That should be added back in before the City vacates N. Tenth Street. She stated that the City needs to take another look at annexing the land off of Betz Road. She would like to see the City make traffic flow part of the new Comprehensive Plan. Jordan Knox, newly appointed ASEWU Legislative Affairs Representative, provided information on some of the projects they have been working on. He stated that their goals include establishing a relationship with the City of Cheney and creating a positive atmosphere for the students.

H. Information Items Mayor Gainer proclaimed March 2006 as American Red Cross month. He also proclaimed February 27 through March 5, 2006 as Peace Corps Week. Mr. Sale introduced the new employees in the Police Department. They are Theresa Westhoff, Lisa Rosier, Nate Conley, Dane Gilman, Dave Bailey, and Darrell Quarles. He also introduced Jami Hoppen, a new Police Reserve.

Mayor Gainer stated that we need to add the Vacation of Mary Street as Item 9. Councilmember Rast moved to add Item 9 to the agenda. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously.

I. Action Items

1. 06-039 Meeting with Petitioner to Set Terms for Annexation – McCardle Mr. Richardson stated that he received a petition for annexation. The Council has to determine whether to accept, reject or modify the annexation, whether we will adopt a zoning regulation, and whether it will require assumption of the indebtedness of the City. After the petition is signed and certified, a public hearing will be held. Discussion followed. Mike Hume, Tomlinson Black Realtors, stated that he is the agent for the owner. Councilmember McKeehan questioned the plans for the property. Mr. Hume stated that it will be an R-1 type of use. Another question was concerning the types of homes to be built. They are looking at a starter home with the price point a little bit lower than what is in town. Cheney has a shortage of resale homes. Councilmember Rast moved to have the property owners assume all existing City indebtedness, establish the zoning as R-1, and accept the proposed annexation size. Councilmember Harris seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

2. 06-021 Ordinance to Establish Proposed Zoning for McCardle Annexation Councilmember Trulove moved for the second reading of Ordinance U-18 in title and summary form only. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously. Councilmember Trulove moved to defer this to the next meeting. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Carried unanimously.

3. 06-030 Street Sweeping Policy Mr. MacDonald stated that this is for formal adoption of a street sweeping policy. It includes a map showing the prioritized streets. It is intended as an informational tool for the public. We only have one sweeper and it takes approximately 280 hours to sweep the entire city. He requested deferring this in order to get additional comment from the public. Councilmember Rast moved to defer this to the March 28 meeting. Councilmember Harris seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

4. 06-031 Employment Practices Ms. Showalter stated that most of these are already in place. They needed updated and modernized. Councilmember McKeehan moved for approval of Resolution D-091. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. 06-035 Cheney Well Four Rehabilitation Project Phase One – Contract Award Mr. MacDonald stated that the first phase calls for installation of appurtenances to operate the well. It will be used for irrigation purposes to relieve potable water demand. The discrepancy in the bids is because of costs for labor, profit, and everything else. Councilmember Overhauser moved to approve Resolution D-094. Councilmember Rast seconded. Carried unanimously.

6. 06-036 Salnave Baseball Fences – Contract Award Mr. MacDonald stated that the Council originally awarded this to Alsco Fence. They decided not to honor their quote. Moran Fence has assured us that they will sign a contract. Councilmember Overhauser moved for passage of Resolution D-095. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Carried unanimously

7. 06-037 Cheney Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project – Engineering Services Mr. MacDonald stated that we are mandated to begin making plans to expand the wastewater treatment plant. We advertised for a consultant and are planning to retain Esvelt Environmental Engineering. The focus is on expanding biosolid and biological facilities. Discussion followed. Councilmember Harris moved for passage of Resolution D-096. Councilmember Trulove seconded. Carried unanimously.

8. 06-038 Televised City Council Meetings Mayor Gainer stated that the proposal is to have City Council meetings televised. This was brought to him by the public. His vision is to have the meetings tape delayed and aired on cable. Councilmember McKeehan stated that he thinks it is a good idea but it depends on the cost. Councilmember Overhauser would like to know how many people have cable and what the access would be. Discussion followed. Councilmember Harris moved to initiate a study for televised City Council meetings. Councilmember McKeehan seconded. Art Hathaway, 816 Chestnut St., stated that he thinks it is a good idea to get citizens involved. Carried unanimously.

9. 06-040 Mary Street Vacation – Reschedule Hearing Date Mr. MacDonald stated that he did not get a chance to advertise. In order to comply with the requirements, the hearing needs to be rescheduled. Councilmember Rast moved to approve Resolution D-097. Councilmember Stockton seconded. Discussion followed. Carried unanimously.

J. Council Reports None

K. Staff Reports Mr. Schmidt stated that Mr. Montague was recognized at the West Plains Chamber of Commerce Best of the West. Mr. Montague presented 2005 reviews of the Fire and Building Departments.

L. Mayor's Report Mayor Gainer stated that he is going to Houston on Thursday for one week.

M. Citizen Comment Ray Sawyer, 15729 S Murphy Rd, asked if he will be notified of the McCardle hearing since he lives close to that area. Mr. Richardson stated that he will be notified. Bonnie Eccles, 214 N 6th St., stated that the water pressure in the high school addition has really dropped. She feels that it is connected to all of the new construction.

Mayor Gainer recessed the meeting at 7:43 p.m. for a one minute recess and executive session regarding matters of real estate with no action to follow. Mayor Gainer reconvened the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

N. Motion for Adjournment Councilmember McKeehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Overhauser seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor