

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING SUMMARY  
 OF THE LLANO CITY COUNCIL  
 CITY HALL  
 301 WEST MAIN  
 LLANO, TEXAS  
 THURSDAY  
 AUGUST 11, 2011  
 5:30 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Called to order by Mayor Mike Reagor at 5:30 p.m. with the following Council members present: Sherry Simpson, Gordon Hefner, Mike Hazel and Jeanne Puryear. Councilman J.R. Decker was absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Reagor

**INVOCATION** – Led by Mayor Reagor

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Public comments: Bill Neiman, Native American Seed of Junction, Texas, commented to the Council that his company focuses on alternatives to re-build habitats. He encouraged the City Council to change the way land is managed. He claimed that the City's call for Jr. Water Rights has closed his business. Mayor Mike Reagor advised that the call was for Sr. Water Rights and that the permit for those water rights is dated 1914.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WORKSHOP**

City of Llano 2011-2012 Budget Workshop regarding water projects, water rates, funding sources and possible budget impacts.

Mayor Reagor began the workshop with the statement that the Council needs to look at what can be done immediately in the budget. Items to look at:

Additional capacity – volumetric report

Conservation – cheapest option

Rates – Lower tiers need to stay at same rate. Higher uses of water go up in Summer.

Growth Goals – 140 gal/person should be good.

City Manager deGraffenried – Format for this meeting. The City Council needs to look at:

Planning goals – How much water do you need? Averages are 1 acre foot/family/year.

Pumping – City Permitted for 1700 acre feet

Conservation Model – Need correct estimate of storage and how long it will last. Right now, pumping 600,000 gal water/day, 60-90-days of water. Actually have 1-2 more acre feet of water than we thought. Possibly 39-40 acre feet in well.

Investment vs. Burden on Residents. What burden is acceptable to residents? Dollars have to come from somewhere. A four million dollar sewer plant meant rates went up approx. \$10.00.

A ten million dollar project – \$20-\$30 – up. Least expensive alternative is conservation.

Additional Water Options – Pipe In.

Pump out of ground.

Increase storage.

Mike Hazel asked how many days of water do you actually have at 459 acre feet in the lower lake. Finley estimates that you have ½ of that amount, ½ goes to vegetation, evaporation and water you cannot capture. 229 acre feet is 74 million gallons – 124 days @ 600,000 gallons.

M. Hazel – I'd like to hear the ideas from around the table. I want to be able to guarantee six months of water @ 0 (zero) flow.

M. Reagor – I'm thinking 120 days.

M. Hazel – 180 days. If we have a good enough plan for long term, 20-30 years, we can turn our growth loose. Long-term best method but most expensive. We still have serious issues with the sewer ponds – don't have money for. Taxes so high no one can be here.

Sherry – Conservation. City can lead off on this.

Golf Course – can add substance to the soil to aid in retaining water. Promote rainwater harvesting. My perspective is, we are letting our water run down stream.

Finley – Long Term –

Off-site well field study - \$25,000

Automated Meter Reading – 1.2 million – pay back in 7-10- years. Catch leaks quicker. Transmits back to City Hall

Additional storage – raise height of dam at Robinson Park

Well field development within City – purchase property and dig well

Dredging

Leak Detection – \$25,000

Conservation – Pricing, landscaping credits

Re: Leak detection – Sam Godfrey has been doing leak detection for 20 years with a high degree of certainty. Could possibly hire him for man-hole inventory.

Conservation incentives – raise rates, give landscaping credits

Automated wireless meter reads – Our meters are 65% accurate.

New system would set red flags. Conservation stages easy to monitor. Our meters run slow. You use more than the meter registers.

Mike Hazel – I would like to clarify Stan Venable's letter regarding dredging City lake. He is waiting to hear from the Engineer. There are no clear facts. Need a couple of weeks to bring proposal to City. It is my opinion that we could at least double the water storage with dredging. Put the sand plant on the River. If it is a temporary plant, it will be easier to chew on. No doubt storage would be increased. A million tons of material that is not very marketable. Airport can store some.

Grant writer came in with USDA grants for dredging. Get a grant and City subsidize the rest. Short term solution, buy 20-30 years.

Gordon Hefner – Have to have some use for the sand. It is not a useable material.

Hazel – Dredging is a common thing.

Reagor – for navigation. Dredging has been done three times. It is a mess. Sand is back again in 1 ½ years.

Sherry – Flooding clears sand out.

Reagor- Raise dam at Robinson Park. Slowly raise to 30". Have to have engineering for this. It is a temporary method – take down to let it scour out in flooding.

Finley – We don't have enough information. We need 10 years of volumetric studies before you will know.

Sherry – What about the third reservoir?

Finley – goes back to permitting

Reagor – low profile for 200 acre feet, plus another crossing over River. Have to get environmental permit.

Sherry – Long-term.

Hazel – there is an aquifer at Riley Mountain.

Reagor – It is a cut-off aquifer.

Hazel – It is 8 miles to Riley Mountain or 15 miles to Valley Springs. It is a second source of water for growth. Have a non-profit group step up and build water line. It's thirty million to Lake and Valley Spring. Alternative Source of water is important to businesses and growth.

Sherry – I have information regarding an air to water machine. Information was distributed to all in attendance. She went on to say that she has a unit that getting 1 ½ gal/day at low humidity.

Finley – recycling of sewer water being looked at. In 20-30 years be put back into the River.

Hazel – TCEQ attorney told Hazel that if the sewer water goes in the River, there will be numerous law suits.

Finley – Goals:

Storage - Six months of water at 0 (Zero) flow

Second source of water

Conservation.

Rates – Reminded CC of survey distributed to them showing rates of 11 other communities in Central Texas. Look at raising rates can result in additional annual revenue of up to \$46,386.00.

Sherry – raise rates above 25,000 gallons and offer incentives for rain barrels, etc.

Reagor – Commercial accounts – give them better rates.

Coach- We have quit watering the baseball fields. Salesmen are saying we get fungus if we water at night.

Hazel – Incentives for rainwater collection

Finley – Money back on difference things.

Sherry – Austin has system for giving money back.

Finley – CC receptive to increase in rates above 25,000 gallons usage. Put proceeds back into incentives.

Sherry – Need incentive program

Coach – PeoOple come out of this learning a lot.

Finley – Direction to Staff

Raise water rates above 12,000 gallons usage

Project identification

Funding sources/Rates

Budget adjustments

Review of Drought Contingency and other City incentives

Reagor – commodes are a problem

**ADJOURNMENT** – With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.