

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2006 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS AT 6:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: WAYNE MASK, JAMES HALL, DARIUS KITCHEN, NATHAN GARDNER, JACKIE JONES & BILL HOLCOMB. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR RONALD DUNCAN, CITY SECRETARY MITZI THOMPSON, POLICE CHIEF JIMMY FISHER AND FIRE CHIEF DARRELL DECKARD.

1. OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Mask called the formal session open. Council member Kitchen gave the invocation and all joined in the pledge.

2. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Mask recognized all visitors present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING – JUNE 5, 2006

Council member Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2006 Special Meeting. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

4. REPORTS: MAYOR – Thanked all who worked to make the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration a successful event

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – none

5. PRESENTATION/ACTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve Ernest White, John Green, Jr and Paul Erickson as full time employees; also the following changes - Mike Reed as Director of Utilities, Arlon McKenzie as Waste Water Plant Operator, Matthew Simon as General Superintendent and James Simon as Water & Sewer Maintenance Crew Chief. Council member Jones seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

6. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Fisher reported for the time period of June 15 thru July 9, 2006; 16 total manpower, 3 reserve manpower, 1,526 total manpower hours, 48 total reserve

manpower hours, 365 total calls, 12 total accidents. A breakdown of the criminal reports is included in the packets.

Chief Fisher then asked council for feedback on the issue of horseback riding in residential areas within the city limits. There have been complaints from residents about this problem and pointed out that there are health and safety issues. Chief Fisher stated that he and Council member Gardner have come up with a solution that included riders policing themselves. If riders police themselves then city ordinances will not need to be amended.

Chief Fisher advised council that the Crockett Police Department received as a gift, a drug dog from a parish in Louisiana. Officer Ramos agreed to take the dog and train him; he had never been on patrol and would have not gone on patrol unless he was certified. Officer Ramos brought the dog to the police station for training purposes only; the dog bit him and would not release him; Officer Ramos felt his life was at stake and the officer put him to sleep.

7. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Deckard reported for the month of June the following: 25 total calls. A breakdown is included in the packets.

8. PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUEST FROM DAVID MCKENDREE/DON RAFA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR A PRIVATE CLUB TO BE LOCATED AT 700 E. LOOP 304, A.E. GOSSETT SURVEY, A-423, CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Mayor Mask opened the public hearing. The following citizens spoke against the request for a specific use permit for Don Rafa's; Eddie Atkinson, Terry Gibson, Carl Brown, Charles Alfred, John Garner and Cliff Lasiter. Carl Stayton and David McKendree spoke for the permit. After many comments for and against the specific use permit, Mayor Mask closed the public hearing.

9. CONSIDER REQUEST FROM DAVID MCKENDREE/DON RAFA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR A PRIVATE CLUB TO BE LOCATED AT 700 E. LOOP 304, A.E. GOSSETT SURVEY, A-423, CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Mayor Mask stated that Planning and Zoning has recommended approval of this request with the following stipulations: alcohol is served with a meal ordered from the menu, no gaming equipment, a fence dividing the property between the church property and restaurant and alcohol be served from Monday – Saturday 11am -11pm and Sunday 11am – 9pm. After discussion between council members, Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve the request from David McKendree for a specific use permit for a private club. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0. Council member Jones voted against the motion.

10. PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUEST FROM BILL & GAYLE HAMMONS FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR A BED & BREAKFAST TO BE LOCATED

AT 400 E. BELL AVENUE, A.E. GOSSETT SURVEY, A-423, CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Mayor Mask opened the public hearing and stated that Planning & Zoning has recommended approval of this request. Sunny Smith spoke in favor of this request. Mayor Mask closed the public hearing.

11. CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BILL & GAYLE HAMMONS FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR A BED & BREAKFAST TO BE LOCATED AT 400 E. BELL AVENUE, A.E. GOSSETT SURVEY, A-423, CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve the request from Bill & Gayle Hammons for a specific use permit for a Bed & Breakfast to be located at 400 E. Bell Avenue. Council member Jones seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

12. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AN APPLICATION FROM MRS. SUE HAWHEE TO DESIGNATE A PARKING SPACE IN THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT AT A COST OF \$15.00 MONTHLY PER ORDINANCE NO. O-11B-96, SECTION 14-189

City Administrator Duncan stated that Mrs. Hawhee is disabled and has trouble walking, she would like the capability to park closer to her business. Council member Hall made a motion to approve designating a parking space in front of her business at a cost of \$15.00 monthly. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

13. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS, APPOINTING THE MAYOR, CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND THE CITY SECRETARY AS THE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR PAYMENT REQUESTS TO THE OFFICE OF RURAL COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Crockett, appointing the Mayor, City Administrator and the City Secretary as the authorized signatories for payment requests to the Office of Rural Community Affairs. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

14. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE TEXAS HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN FOR DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Council member Hall made a motion to approve the Texas Homeland Security Regional Response Plan for Deep East Texas Council of Governments. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

15. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15-5 OF THE CROCKETT CODE, PERMITTING AN ESTABLISHMENT TO BE DECLARED AS A SMOKING ESTABLISHMENT, CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; CONTAINING A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mayor Mask explained this ordinance merely allows a business to declare their business as a smoking establishment, with a prominent sign. Council member Hall stated that the ordinance needs to be clear and specific on the guidelines for the sign. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to table the ordinance amending Section 15-5 of the Crockett Code, permitting an establishment to be declared as a smoking establishment. Council member Hall seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0. Item tabled until further review by City Attorney.

16. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Council spent some time going over the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2007. Mr. Duncan presented a draft copy of the budget that included no changes to water, sewer or garbage rates. This draft budget assumes council adopting a three percent increase in ad valorm taxes. The draft budget also includes a 4% salary increase across the board for employees. Council was also advised to consider the issues facing the fire department by withdrawing from the interlocal agreement to provide fire services outside the extra territorial jurisdiction. Mr. Duncan will present a more refined budget after rates are received from the Houston County Appraisal District.

17. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL

Paul Robbins – concerns over riding horses in city limits  
Gerald Colter – concerns over riding horses in city limits  
Mary Simon – would like extra patrol at Prince Hall for the children; Officer Gardner does a good job there  
Greg Wassberg - Police dept is doing a good job for the city

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to consider, meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

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Wayne Mask, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mitzi Thompson, City Secretary