

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF AUGUST 2005 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS AT 5:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: WAYNE MASK, JAMES HALL, DARIUS KITCHEN, ELOUISE WOOTEN, JACKIE JONES AND BILL HOLCOMB. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR RONALD DUNCAN, CITY SECRETARY MITZI THOMPSON, CORPORAL MICHAEL HARRELL AND FIRE CHIEF DARRELL DECKARD.

1. OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Mask opened the meeting. Council member Wooten 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 – JULY 18, 2005

Council member Wooten made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2005 Special Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

4. REPORTS: MAYOR – Mayor Mask read a thank you card from Mr. & Mrs. Reece on choosing their property as Property of the Month

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Parking Ordinance will be amended at the next council meeting

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Corporal Harrell reported for the time period of July 18 thru July 31, 2005; 16 total manpower, 3 reserve manpower, 1,105 total manpower hours, 30 total reserve manpower hours, 220 total calls, 7 total accidents. A breakdown of the criminal reports is included in the packets.

6. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Deckard reported for the month of July the following: 15 total calls. A breakdown is included in the packets.

7. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AUTHORIZING WAL MART INC TO PAVE 30 FOOT CITY EASEMENT LOCATED AT LOOP 304 BETWEEN THEO'S STEAKHOUSE AND COCA COLA

Wal Mart store manager, Ronnie Wall, answered questions from council regarding requirements of streets in the city limits. Mr. Wall responded by saying that it would eliminate two drives and replaces it with just one. Mayor Mask stated that he would like a ruling from Mr. Pemberton, City Attorney. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to table this item. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0. No action, item tabled.

8. PUBLIC HEARING ON CENTERPOINT ENERGY TEXAS DIVISION RATE SUBMISSION

Mayor Mask opened the public hearing. Mr. John Seale, Centerpoint Energy Area Manager, addressed council with a proposed division wide rate increase that would amount to .55 on the minimum bill per customer. Mr. Seale also pointed out that the company has not had a rate increase in 20 years and this increase is justified and minimal. After discussion among council, Mayor Mask closed the public hearing.

9. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE REVIEW INTO THE REASONABLENESS AND PRUDENCE OF THE PROPOSED RATES OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY'S BEAUMONT/EAST TEXAS DIVISION ("CENTERPOINT GAS"); SUSPENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE PROPOSED RATES OF CENTERPOINT GAS NINETY DAYS; AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN A COALITION OF CITIES KNOWN AS ALLIANCE OF CENTERPOINT MUNICIPALITIES (ACM) IN ORDER TO HIRE ATTORNEYS AND EXPERTS WITH OTHER CITIES SERVED BY CENTERPOINT GAS; AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN OTHER PROCEEDINGS RELATED TO CENTERPOINT'S RATE REQUEST; REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF MUNICIPAL RATE CASE EXPENSES; DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED COMPLIED WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mr. Duncan explained that by passing this resolution it authorizes a review of the proposed rates and suspends the effective date for the increase for 90 days. It also will provide for the City to coordinate with other cities in a coalition to retain counsel and to negotiate with Centerpoint concerning the proposed change. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve the resolution of the City Council of the City of Crockett, authorizing the review into the reasonableness and prudence of the proposed rates of Centerpoint Energy's Beaumont/East Texas division ("Centerpoint gas"); suspending the effective date for the proposed rates of Centerpoint gas ninety days; authorizing the participation in a coalition of cities known as alliance of Centerpoint Municipalities (ACM) in order to hire attorneys and experts with other cities served by Centerpoint gas; authorizing participation in other proceedings related to Centerpoint's rate request; requiring

reimbursement of municipal rate case expenses; determining that the meeting at which this resolution was passed complied with the Texas open meetings act; and establishing an effective date. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

10. CONSIDER AND APPROVE PROPOSED TAX RATE CHANGE AND PROPOSED PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Mr. Duncan told council that with the increase in the tax base to some \$16.5 million, the effective tax rate of \$.46726 at a collection rate of 94%, would generate only slightly less revenue than a 3% increase that would require two public hearings. Mr. Duncan stated that a public hearing to approve the budget is scheduled for August 15, 2005. Council member Hall made a motion to approve the proposed tax rate change and a public hearing for August 15, 2005. Council member Jones seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

11. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Council spent time going over the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006. This budget includes water and sewer rate increases for the instances of more than minimum usage. The current rates have not been increased since 1999. Garbage collection for residential customers will also be increased from \$13.00 monthly to \$14.50 monthly. These rates have not been increased since 1991. This budget also includes a 3% across the board increase for employees.

12. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL

Billy Groves – conduct of police officers

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to consider, meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Wayne Mask, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mitzi Thompson, City Secretary