

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF DECEMBER 2005 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 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, POLICE CHIEF JIMMY FISHER AND FIRE CHIEF DARRELL DECKARD.

1. OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Mask opened the meeting. 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 – NOVEMBER 1, 2005

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2005 Special Meeting. Council member Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

4. REPORTS: MAYOR – Mayor Mask reminded council of the Christmas party on Friday Dec 9, 2005 for the City employees.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Grant was awarded to the City for improvements to civic center, still waiting on contracts from ORCA, force main grant is complete and paperwork is being completed

5. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO HIRE A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Council member Hall made a motion to authorize City Administrator Duncan to hire a Public Works Director. Council member Jones seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

6. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Fisher reported for the time period of November 15 thru December 4, 2005; 14 total manpower, 2-reserve manpower, 1,562 total manpower hours, 70 total reserve manpower hours, 280 total calls, 4 total accidents. A breakdown of the criminal reports is included in the packets.

A) NOMINATION/ELECTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICER

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve Dustin Ramos as a full time police officer. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

7. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Deckard reported for the month of November the following: 29 total calls. A breakdown is included in the packets.

8. CONSIDER AND APPROVE CITY DEPOSITORY

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve Prosperity Bank (formerly First State Bank) as the city depository for the next two years. Council member Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

9. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT BY AMENDING CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE III OF THE CROCKETT CODE TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE AMBULANCE FRANCHISE; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; CONTAINING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

City Administrator Duncan stated the original ordinance is twelve years old and outdated, this amended ordinance states that the City of Crockett grants exclusive territory to East Texas Medical Center. Council member Hall made a motion to approve an ordinance of the City of Crockett amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Crockett by amending Chapter 11, Article III of the Crockett Code to provide for an exclusive ambulance franchise, repealing conflicting ordinances; containing an effective date; and containing a severability clause. Council member Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

10. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AN ORDINANCE WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE AN ORDER BY THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS TO REQUIRE CENTERPOINT ENERGY ENTEX TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM CHARGING ILLEGAL AND UNLAWFUL RATES AND REQUIRING REFUNDS; TO REQUIRE THE FILING OF A REPORT WITH REGARD TO COSTS EXPENDED BY ENTEX IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. O-09B-05; MAKING FINDINGS WITH REGARD TO THIS ORDER; FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mr. Duncan stated that this ordinance is an ongoing struggle to set gas utility rates within the City of Crockett. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve

an Ordinance which will constitute an order by the City of Crockett to require Centerpoint Energy Entex to cease and desist from charging illegal and unlawful rates and requiring refunds; to require the filing of a report with regard to costs expended by Entex in connection with the appeal of Ordinance No. O-09B-05; making findings with regard to this order. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

11. **CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT DESIGNATING PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST AND SIGN FOR FUNDS UNDER THE CITY'S TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROJECT**

Council member Kitchen made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Crockett designating persons authorized to request and sign for funds under the City's Texas Community Development Program Project. Council member Hall seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

12. **PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUEST FROM DOC'S SMOKED MEATS, L.L.C., TO ESTABLISH A REINVESTMENT ZONE ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1279 EAST TEXAS HIGHWAY LOOP 304 FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT**

Mayor Mask opened the public hearing. Mr. Tim Culp, Director of Crockett Economic Development Corp, explained to council that Mr. Jack Patton is planning to expand his business to include a manufacturing facility that would produce smoked meats. He plans to build a six thousand square foot property with a \$250,000 investment not including the property. Twenty-five new jobs would be created over a three-year period and the estimated payroll over the tax abatement period of six years would be 1.3 million. Council member Hall stated that he needed to do more research before it is approved. Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb stated that council needs to find a way to make this community grow. After further discussion, Mayor Mask recommended the matter be tabled to obtain more information regarding the tax abatement laws. Mayor Mask closed the public hearing.

13. **CONSIDER AND APPROVE A REQUEST FROM DOC'S SMOKED MEATS, L.L.C., TO ESTABLISH A REINVESTMENT ZONE ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1279 EAST TEXAS HIGHWAY LOOP 304 FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to table the request from Doc's Smoked Meats, L.L.C. to establish a Reinvestment Zone on the property located at 1279 East Texas Highway Loop 304 for the purpose of a Property Tax Abatement. Council member Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0. Item tabled.

14. CONSIDER AND APPROVE RENEWAL OF MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF CROCKETT AND CROCKETT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb made a motion to approve the renewal of the Management Agreement between City of Crockett and the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce for a period of one year. Council member Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

15. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT RATIFYING THE EMPLOYMENT OF JIM BOYLE AND DAN LAWTON TO WORK WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO "THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS vs. CENTERPOINT ENERGY ENTEX, CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP."

Council member Jones made a motion to approve a resolution of the City of Crockett ratifying the employment of Jim Boyle and Dan Lawton to work with the City Attorney in all matters related to "The City of Crockett, Texas vs. Centerpoint Energy Entex, Centerpoint Energy Resources Corp." Mayor Pro Tem Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

16. PRESENTATION/PROGRESS REPORT BY COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES HALL ON THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE

Council member Hall presented council with an in-depth presentation regarding the benefits of the Renewable Energy Task Force to the area.

17. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL

Mayor Mask stated the next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2006 due to the holidays.

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to consider, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Wayne Mask, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mitzi Thompson, City Secretary