

City Commission meeting - March 25, 1985, City Hall - 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with all commissioners in attendance.

Mayor Jackson ask the commission if there were any questions regarding the minutes of the previous meeting and the special called meeting. With none to be heard, Comm. McChesney presented a motion to dispense with the reading of same, seconded by Comm. Gilley. Roll call and vote- Marr yes, Gilley yes, Jackson yes, McChesney yes, Garman yes.

The commissioners had reviewed the treasurer's report for the period 2/15/85 thru 3/15/85, and Mayor Jackson ask for questions or discussion. Comm. Gilley wondered why the phone bill for the Fire Dept. was so high. David Stiffey from the county fire Dept. explained the county pays all of the utility bills for the fire dept. with the exception of the phone bill and since we are not connected to the 911 emergency number, we must pay our own bill. The clerk said the bill averages around \$54.00 per month. With no further discussion, Comm. Gilley presented a motion to accept the report as printed, seconded by Comm. Garman. Roll call and vote- Garman yes, McChesney yes, Jackson yes, Gilley yes, Marr yes.

AGENDA

1. Repair of Vincent Street - discussion

Mayor Jackson said he had met with Jack Grinnan, the County Road Egr. to survey the street's damage and to prepare an estimate, (copy attached), for the repairs needed. The total was for \$8,333. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the apparent reason why the road is always in need of repair. It was the general opinion of the commission the trucks from the Flav-O-Rich plant caused a considerable amount of the damage, and the plant isn't in the city, so consequently the company pays no taxes to help defray the cost of the repair work. Mayor Jackson agreed to talk with one of the executives from Dairymen Inc. to get their feelings as to the possibility of annexing them into the city limits and he will report back to the commission. Comm. Gilley wondered if there wasn't some way a road bond could be affixed to insure money would be available when repairs are needed. Mayor Jackson ask he be given some time to do some checking with these men, and then they

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could decide what the necessary steps involved are. It was the general opinion of most of the commissioners, the \$8,333 would be most of the total funds the city has to repair all of the city streets with, and they didn't feel it was fair to the tax paying citizens. With no further discussion to be heard, Comm. Garman presented a motion the decision regarding repairs of Vincent Street be deferred, seconded by Comm. Gilley. Roll call and vote - Marr yes, Gilley yes, Jackson yes, McChesney yes, Garman yes.

2. Possible merger of the City & County Fire Departments

Mayor Jackson ask Chief Bybee to elaborate on this subject so all present would be aware of the situation. Chief Bybee said the truck the city now owns is out dated and would not pass a pump test if one was given, plus the fact a new truck was around \$75,000 low cost, and the city does not have and won't have that kind of funds for a long period of time. He added the truck was used, maybe one time during the past year. All of the state aid which the city receives has been deposited in a fire truck fund for over six years now and the time allowed to accumulate this aid is five years, then it must be spent. The city department doesn't have any members, and Chief Bybee was sure an inspection would be inevitable in the near future and we would not qualify. He said State Fire Marshall Bogard has talked with him at length on the 19th of December and was very understanding of our situation. He said when the commission and the Mayor reached a decision to discuss this merger, or possibility of same, to contact him for an appointment, and he would come down to see if he could help the city work towards a solution. Comm. Garman presented a motion, chief Bogard be contacted to start this consolidation process, seconded by Comm. Marr. Roll call and vote - Marr yes, Gilley yes, Jackson yes, McChesney yes, Garman yes.

3. Other

(a) Cemetery maintenance

Comm. Garman said he had talked with Lawrence Stiffey regarding his taking the maintenance of the cemetery on a contract basis. Mr. Stiffey would furnish all of the equipment, insurance, parts, gas & oil etc., for a total of \$1,000 per month. Mr. Stiffey wanted a three year contract commitment. Comm. Garman said he felt we

shouldn't commit to a three year contract plus he didn't feel there was that kind of funds available in the cemetery funds. He said he had been contacted by six other people who were interested in the job on an hourly basis. He felt Ms. Jordan has worked long and hard to raise the present funds and we should scrutinize the spending of them very carefully. Comm. Garman ask for the feelings of the other commissioners. There was a lengthy discussion as to what the responsibilities of the person hired would be. Comm. Garman said they were to mow, trim, clean up old flowers and pick up fallen limbs and debris. The time involved for the mowing is at least five months and in all probability six months. Comm. Gilley ask if the cemetery funds could afford \$5,000 to \$6,000 if Mr. Stiffey would agree to do it on these terms. Ms. Jordan said if all things considered stay as they are now, she could. Comm.

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Garman said he would talk to Mr. Stiffey and if he would agree to do the cemetery on these terms, he would let the commission know. Otherwise, he would hire someone else. He will report at the April meeting who he had decided on.

(b) Surplus Community Development lots

All of the commissioners and the Mayor agreed it was past time for the city to get rid of these lots. Several of the commissioners and the Mayor had been contacted by people interested in buying them. It was decided to put this on the April agenda. The clerk is to contact the city attorney to discuss the proper legal procedure and to contact the realtors in the local area to see if they are interested in bidding for the auction of these lots. The commission was in complete agreement it would be better to have a public auction rather than advertise for sealed bids.

With no further business to be heard, a motion to adjourn was heard.

Approved: James F. Jackson
Mayor

Attest: Dorothy J. Neal
City Clerk