

**Town Council Minutes  
August 8, 2011**

STATE OF TEXAS           §

COUNTY OF TARRANT       §

TOWN OF PANTEGO         §

The Town Council of the Town of Pantego, Texas, met in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Town Hall, 1614 South Bowen Road, Pantego, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011 with the following members present:

Melody Paradise	Mayor
Don Surratt	Mayor Pro Tem
Donna Arlington	Council Members
Jane Barrett	
Russell Brewster	
Duane Smith	

constituting a quorum. The following staff members were present:

Sean Fox	City Manager
Lindsay Wells	City Secretary
Jim Jeffrey	City Attorney
Joel McKinney	Police Chief
Tom Griffith	Fire Chief
Ron Edwards	Public Works Director
Robert Newsome	Finance Director
Chad Joyce	Building Inspector

Also in attendance:

Bill Brown	PEDC President
Bob Horak	PEDC Director

**WORK SESSION 6:30 P.M.**

Mayor Paradise called the work session into order at 6:32 p.m.

1.     **City Manager Report**
  - Item #1-Comprehensive Plan-A representative from Jacobs Engineering is in attendance to discuss the progress of the Comprehensive Plan and to schedule community meetings. The meetings are tentatively set for August 21, 2011 and September 25, 2011.
  - Item #2-Proposed Withdrawal from Social Security-The Town is working with the law firm of Locke, Lord, Bissell & Liddell on the necessary steps for withdrawal and performing all due diligence. Even if Social Security and TMRS are considered comparable retirement plans, it is possible that the Social Security Administration may not officially accept the Town's decision to opt out.

Council discussed general issues with staff regarding expenditures and withdrawing from the Social Security system. Council directed staff to draft a letter to the Social Security Administration stating the intent of the Town to withdraw from Social Security.

2.     **Monthly Staff Reports**
3.     **Acceptance of Purchase Orders: BUDGETED ITEMS**
4.     **Approval of Bills Payable for Professional Services**
5.     **Minutes: Town Council-July 25, 2011 and August 1, 2011**

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Council discussed general issues related to agenda item 6 with Rick Liesner from Jacobs Engineering. Public community meetings to discuss the comprehensive plan were scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 21, 2011 at 3 p.m. and Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 2 p.m. Council inquired if the Lions Club would allow the Town use of their facility for these meetings and Bill Brown, President of the Lions Club, approved the request.

Mr. Liesner discussed the status of the Comprehensive Plan with Council that will be presented during public community meetings. Mr. Liesner also discussed the results of the Stakeholder interviews conducted with citizens, councilmembers, business owners and staff.

Mayor Paradise adjourned the work session at 7:35 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION 7:30 P.M.**  
**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Mayor Paradise called the regular session to order at 7:47 p.m.

**INVOCATION BY:**

Bob Griffin

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTERESTS**

Police Chief Joel McKinney discussed the upcoming public safety forum scheduled for September 22, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The program is aimed at junior high and high school age teens and their parents. Chief McKinney stated that the goal of the program is to educate teens and their parents about dangerous drugs in the community and their use.

Fire Chief Tom Griffith informed Council that resident and longtime volunteer firefighter Joe Sutton passed away today and relayed information regarding the viewing and funeral service. Mr. Griffith expressed his condolences to Mr. Sutton's family.

City Manager Sean Fox discussed the conference for newly elected and appointed officials he recently attended and commented that, in comparison to many cities in Texas, Pantego is in a very healthy financial position.

Councilmember Arlington mentioned a billboard she saw in Fort Worth advertising Pantego's Farmers Market.

Mayor Paradise discussed the upcoming His Amazing Grace Race hosted by Camp Thurman on Saturday, September 24, 2011 and encouraged Council and staff to participate. Mayor Paradise also mentioned preparations for the 2011/2012 Pantego Youth Leadership Council are underway, and discussed the joint board meeting of the Park & Recreation Board and the Public Safety Advisory Board scheduled for August 23, 2011.

**COUNCIL LIAISON TO BOARDS REPORTS**

- **Park & Recreation Board**

Mayor Paradise mentioned that the Park & Recreation Board has not had a meeting since the previous Council meeting and that a joint meeting of the Park & Recreation Board and the Public Safety Advisory Board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

• **Public Safety Advisory Board**

Councilmember Brewster informed Council that he was unable to attend the August 2, 2011 meeting; however, he was given an overview of the meeting by Stephen Smith. The board discussed National Night Out scheduled for October 4, 2011. Mr. Brewster also mentioned the upcoming August 23rd joint meeting with the Park & Recreation Board.

**PEDC REPORTS**

President Bill Brown updated Council on the PEDC meeting which took place July 20, 2011, and relayed that CMA, the company working on the Park Row development project, should be presenting pricing very soon to PEDC. The project is currently one month behind schedule. Mr. Brown also stated that a decision regarding the Economic Development Coordinator will be made at the next meeting scheduled to take place Wednesday, August 10, 2011.

**CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

**Bob Griffin, 2 Country Club Ct. Pantego, TX 76013** - Mr. Griffin began by acknowledging the staff on their hard work during the budget time. Mr. Griffin expressed his concern that the Pantego Economic Development Corporation has committed to spend more than \$100,000 on a Park Row development project when the Town should allocate those funds to improve the aging water infrastructure. He feels that ventures such as the Park Row development are better left to private developers with the support of a city or town. Mr. Griffin urged Council to consider revising the current restricted uses of PEDC funds to allocate their use in infrastructure projects.

**Bob Horak, 1509 Wagonwheel Trl. Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Horak expressed his concern that PEDC voted to begin meeting twice a month when the current agendas deal with issues concerning Bicentennial Park rather than economic development issues. Mr. Horak feels that Public Works Director Ron Edwards should be given funds to manage the park and PEDC can focus solely on economic development issues.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Arlington, Barrett, Brewster, and Smith

Nays:

Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, REVIEW, APPROVAL AND / OR DIRECT STAFF**

**6. Discuss the comprehensive plan with Jacobs Engineering.**

Agenda item #6 was discussed during work session. Public meetings have been scheduled for August 21, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. and September 25, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. with a location to be announced at a later date.

**7. Discuss, review and consider the wading pool at Bicentennial Park.**

City Manager Sean Fox presented Council with different options and pricing regarding the wading pool at Bicentennial Park. The first option presented was to make the necessary repairs to the wading pool to

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bring it in compliance with current state law and maintain its status as a wading pool. The second option was to demolish the entire wading pool structure allowing only the statue to remain and landscaping the area around it. The final option included filling the current structure with large stones and allowing the structure to function as a water feature only.

**Don Bailey, 3200 Smith Barry, Pantego, TX 76013** - Mr. Bailey asked Council why removing the wading pool is an option. He feels it is an asset to the Town and would rather see the structure repaired.

**Bob Horak, 1509 Wagonwheel Trl. Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Horak expressed his concern at allowing the structure to remain as a water feature, fearing that children will continue to climb in if water is available.

Council discussed with staff the options presented and directed staff to obtain all information regarding fulfilling legal requirements

**8. Discuss, review and consider a vote on a proposed 2011 Ad Valorem tax rate to be acted upon during the Town Council agenda of September 12, 2011 and September 26, 2011 and schedule two public hearings for August 22, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. and August 29, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.**

Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome presented Council with the Ad Valorem tax rate information for the 2011 tax year. Mr. Newsome explained that the current tax rate is \$0.37327 per \$100 valuation, the effective rate is \$0.377211 per \$100 valuation and the rollback rate is \$0.414712 per \$100 valuation, and requested direction from Council in setting an Ad Valorem tax rate. Mr. Newsome explained that he has tentatively scheduled public hearings regarding the Ad Valorem tax rate for Monday, August 22, 2011 and Monday, August 29, 2011.

Council discussed the information presented by Mr. Newsome and came to the consensus of adopting a \$0.41 Ad Valorem tax rate. Council also agreed to schedule the public hearings as suggested by Mr. Newsome on Monday, August 22, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. and Monday, August 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember Arlington moved to propose a \$0.41 Ad Valorem tax rate for tax year 2011 with an amendment by Councilmember Barrett to specify \$0.41 per \$100 valuation with public hearings scheduled for August 22, 2011 and August 29, 2011. Councilmember Brewster seconded the original motion as well as the amended motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Arlington, Barrett, Brewster, and Smith

Nays:

Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

**9. Discuss, review, and receive the 2011 Ad Valorem tax roll from the Tarrant County Appraisal District.**

Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome informed Council that this agenda item has been included for informational purposes only.

**10. Discuss, review, and receive the certified anticipated collection rate for the year 2010 from the Tarrant County Tax Assessor Collector.**

Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome informed Council that this agenda item has been included for informational purposes only. He also stated that the County currently anticipates a 100% collection rate for the year 2010.

**ORDINANCES**

**11. Consider any action on the first and final reading of an ordinance approving an amendment to the Town of Pantego Code of Ordinances Fire Code regarding the collection of past due Fire Inspection Fees.**

Fire Chief Tom Griffith presented the proposed ordinance amendment to Council explaining the necessity of implementing greater collection efforts for past due fire inspection fees. Chief Griffith explained that fire inspections were performed at no cost to the business owner and later a \$25 fee was imposed to help offset business expenses related to the inspections. Chief Griffith also informed Council that, although a warrant could be issued for failure to pay the fee, the business owner would be contacted several times and given many opportunities to pay the fee before that step would be taken.

**Bob Horak 1509 Wagonwheel Trl. Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Horak expressed his concern at allowing the fire department to have the ability to have warrants issued on such a small amount of money.

Council discussed the information presented by Mr. Griffith as well as the citizen concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment to the Town of Pantego Code of Ordinances Fire Code regarding the collection of past due Fire Inspection Fees. Councilmember Barrett seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Arlington, Barrett, Brewster, and Smith

Nays:

Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

**12. Consider any action on the first and final reading of an ordinance approving an amendment to the Town of Pantego Code of Ordinances dissolving the Park & Recreation Board and the Public Safety Advisory Board and creating the Community Relations Board.**

City Attorney Jim Jeffrey presented an ordinance officially dissolving the Park & Recreation Board and the Public Safety Advisory Board and creating a new combined board to be called the Community Relations Board.

Council discussed the ordinance presented and directed Mr. Jeffrey to make changes to be consistent with our current ordinance regarding term limits and serving on more than one board, and to change town representative to town staff regarding attendance at meetings, and to revise the minimum number of members to seven with no maximum.

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt moved to approve the ordinance amending the Town of Pantego Code of Ordinances dissolving the Park & Recreation Board and the Public Safety Advisory Board and creating the Community Relations Board with the changes as discussed. Councilmember Brewster seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Arlington, Barrett, Brewster, and Smith

Nays:

Abstentions:

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Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL INQUIRY**

Councilmember Smith inquired about a listing of board members previously requested at the last Council meeting and staff confirmed that the list is currently undergoing revisions. Councilmember Arlington inquired about changes to the PEDC funding to water infrastructure as mentioned by Bob Griffin during Citizen Open Forum and staff confirmed to Council that the issue will be researched.

**SCHEDULED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council will convene in the City Secretary's Office pursuant to the Texas Government Code for an executive session as follows:

Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.087, to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations.

Mayor Paradise adjourned the regular session into executive session at 9:50 p.m. and reconvened at 10:45 p.m. with council taking no action on the executive agenda item

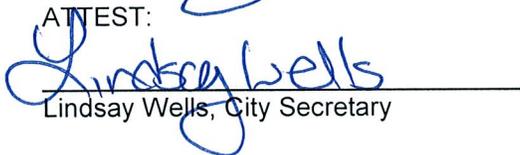
**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Paradise adjourned the regular session at 10:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Melody Paradise, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

