

**Town Council minutes  
September 10, 2012**

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 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012 with the following members present:

Melody Paradise	Mayor
Don Surratt	Mayor Pro Tem
Jane Barrett	Council Members
Russell Brewster	
Don Funderlic	
Charlie Price	

constituting a quorum. The following staff members were present:

Sean Fox	City Manager
Lindsay Wells	City Secretary
Jim Jeffrey	City Attorney
Fitzhugh Newsome	Finance Director
Tom Griffith	Chief of Public Safety
Ron Edwards	Director of Public Works
Chad Joyce	Community Development Director
Thressa Householder	Municipal Court Supervisor

Also in attendance:

Bill Brown	PEDC President
Fred Adair	Planning & Zoning Commissioner

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

Mayor Paradise called the work session to order at 6:34 p.m.

**1. City Manager Report**

- First Council session in October – Columbus Day, October 8, 2012 is a Town recognized holiday. This will be the first year that the Town has recognized this holiday since the employee handbook was updated last fall. If the holiday schedule continues as currently written, Council will always miss the first meeting in October or reschedule due to Columbus Day falling on the second Monday of the month. In addition to the holiday, the Salvation Army is in the process of leasing a space at Trinity Methodist Church and are in process of submitting paperwork to the Planning & Zoning Commission for their meeting to be held October 1, 2012.
- Miss Pantego – Molly Woehl competed as Miss Pantego USA during the Miss Texas USA pageant over Labor Day weekend and won the People's Choice award.
- PantegoFEST Update – With 25 days to go until the event, several vendors are confirming they will be joining the festival. The entertainment schedule has been finalized. Advertising will increase in the next few weeks and will be seen in three papers and heard on three radio stations. A volunteer training will be held Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 29, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. An Operations center will be in The Towers shopping center and possibly in Westbury Square.

Council discussed issues including rescheduling the first Council session in October and what items the Planning & Zoning Commission is scheduled to review at their October meeting. Mayor Paradise discussed the Salvation Army lease.

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Council agreed to consider rescheduling the October meeting during the Regular Session. City Attorney Jim Jeffrey informed Council how joint meetings of Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission have been handled in the past.

Council discussed construction of The Towers shopping center.

**2. Monthly Staff Reports**

Council discussed issues related to Community Development Director Chad Joyce's report regarding liens for a property on Robin Road. Municipal Court Supervisor Thressa Householder confirmed that the court is taking the necessary steps to obtain the liens. City Attorney Jim Jeffrey discussed a legal process for the property and stated that he felt that the court is the most appropriate legal channel.

Council next discussed zoning issues related to how certificates of occupancy recently issued conform to the Comprehensive Plan.

**3. Approval of Bills Payable and Purchase Orders in Excess of \$1,000**

**4. Minutes:           Planning & Zoning – August 6, 2012  
                              Town Council – August 27, 2012 and September 4, 2012**

Council directed staff to make changes to language from Town Council minutes including fire engine cooling equipment and budget discussions.

**5. Discuss, consider, and approve an ordinance providing for a penalty to defray costs of collecting delinquent property taxes pursuant to Texas Tax Code Sections 33.07 and 33.08.**

Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome informed Council this agenda item is necessary to pass prior to the next agenda item. Mr. Newsome explained that this ordinance approves an increased fee for the collection of ad valorem tax. The law firm of Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott L.L.P. is requesting an increase from 15% to 20%.

**6. Discuss, consider, and approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the legal firm of Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott L.L.P. and Grey Pierson for the collection of past due Ad Valorem tax.**

Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome informed Council that the resolution presented approves the law firm of Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott L.L.P. and Grey Pierson as the collection agent for past due ad valorem tax.

**7. Discuss and review a request from the Pantego Lions Club to relocate the snow cone stand in Pantego Bicentennial Park.**

Public Works Director Ron Edwards stated that the Pantego Lions Club has requested approval to move the snow cone stand from its current location to a new location with increased visibility.

Council discussed issues including out of pocket costs to the town, trailer placement, and buried utilities. Mr. Edwards confirmed that there will be no out of pocket costs. City Manager Sean Fox stated that during non-summer months, the trailer will be in storage and electrical and plumbing costs will be covered by the Pantego Lions Club.

Pantego Lions Club representative Cal Kost informed Council the snow cone stand will be open through the month of October.

Mayor Paradise adjourned the work session at 7:36 p.m.

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

Mayor Paradise called the regular session to order at 7:44 p.m.

**INVOCATION BY:**

Mayor Pro Tem Don Surratt

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

- **Youth Event – September 15, 2012**
- **Pantego Youth Leadership Council**

Councilmember Barrett welcomed everyone in attendance and stated that PantegoFEST is coming up very quickly. She will be participating in the 5k road race and encouraged everyone to do it as well. Mayor Pro Tem Surratt welcomed everyone and stated that the Annual Royalty Owners Association meeting was held last week and he thought it was interesting that more people showed up for that meeting than for a Town Council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Surratt also mentioned a letter he received from Joe Shannon, the Tarrant County District Attorney. He was involved in a hit and run accident in 2010 with both Pantego and Dalworthington Garden police involved. The letter was payment for the damage sustained to his vehicle. He stated that he appreciates the work the police department does.

Mayor Paradise informed the audience that a ribbon cutting was held this past Saturday, September 8, 2012 for Mom's Liquor Cabinet on Park Row Drive. It is the first liquor store in the town after the citizen driven petition and successful election in May.

City Secretary Lindsay Wells discussed the upcoming Youth Event to be held this Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 followed by a movie in the park featuring The Hunger Games.

Mayor Paradise also mentioned the Pantego Wellness Campaign and Ms. Wells gave a brief overview.

**COUNCIL RECOGNITION**

Mayor Paradise and Mayor Pro Tem Surratt issued a Proclamation declaring September 17-23, 2012 as Constitution Week.

**COUNCIL LIAISON TO BOARD REPORT**

- **Community Relations Board**

Councilmember Barrett informed Council that the Community Relations Board met Thursday, September 6, 2012 and the board discussed the upcoming budget, PantegoFEST issues including volunteers. She stated that the board is made up of wonderful volunteers and encouraged people to attend the meetings. Mayor Paradise welcomed board members Karen Strezlecki and Cal Kost.

- **Pantego Youth Leadership Council**

Mayor Paradise stated that the first PYLC meeting will be held Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in Council Chambers and encouraged everyone to attend.

**PEDC REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt stated that PEDC has not met since the previous Council meeting but will meet this Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

**CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

**Karen Strezlecki, 24 Gittiban Place, Pantego, TX 76013** – Ms. Strezlecki informed Council that her daughter waits for the school bus near Bicentennial Park and there is standing water under the bridge with large amounts of mosquitoes swarming over the bridge.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Paradise stated that discussion of rescheduling the October 8, 2012 Council meeting will be discussed separately and agenda item 8 will be discussed in regular session.

Councilmember Brewster moved to approve Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 on consent with changes as discussed. Councilmember Price seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Barrett, Brewster, Funderlic and Price

Nays:

Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

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

**8 Accept the resignation of Gladys and Otis Holamon from the Community Relations Board.**

City Secretary Lindsay Wells briefed Council on the circumstances on the resignation of Gladys and Otis Holamon. Mayor Paradise stated that they will be honored at the Annual Volunteer Christmas Party in December. Council discussed the resignation and accepted it.

Council next discussed the issue of rescheduling or cancelling the October 8, 2012 Council meeting. One option mentioned was to hold a joint meeting with the Planning & Zoning Commission on October 1, 2012. Council discussed issues including the timeframe for the Salvation Army occupying the church building.

Councilmember Price made a motion to cancel the October 8 meeting. Councilmember Barrett seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Barrett, Brewster, Funderlic and Price

Nays:

Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

**8. Presentation of the 2012 Comprehensive Plan and Revitalization Strategies final draft that has been submitted for review by Jacobs Engineers. Discuss and direct staff on needed changes, if any, to proceed to public hearings.**

Community Development Director Chad Joyce explained that the plan being presented is a draft based on previous discussions. Mr. Joyce informed Council that Rick Leisner is no longer with the company. Public Hearings have been tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2012 for the Planning & Zoning Commission and the first meeting in October for Council. Mr. Joyce discussed changes to this final draft including a connectivity plan and mixed use. Mayor Paradise informed Council that the City of Arlington is discussing decreasing Abram Street to a two lane road similar to Pantego's discussions of Park Row.

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Council discussed issues including fees still owed to Jacobs Engineering, land use requirements, future land use, Council directions, options for lanes of traffic, and extending the review period.

Council directed this item be brought back at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 9. Public Hearing and consider any action on Zoning Case Z-173, a proposed Special Use Permit as requested by Robert Crosely/Raebay, LLC, on behalf of Coker's BBQ, for permission to sell alcohol (beer) for on-premise consumption at an existing restaurant, located at 2612 West Pioneer Parkway, Abstract 1432, Tract 3G03A of the Nathan Smith Survey, Pantego, Tarrant County, Texas. This property is generally located on the south side of West Pioneer Parkway between South Bowen Road and Corzine Drive.**

Community Development Director Chad Joyce informed Council that P&Z discussed this at their last meeting and they voted unanimously to approve this.

Mayor Paradise opened the floor for a Public Hearing at 8:22 p.m. and the following citizens and business owners came to speak before Council,

**Jerry Boswell, 2612 West Pioneer Parkway, Pantego, TX 76013** – Mr. Boswell stated that everyone enjoys a cold beer with a barbeque sandwich and asked Council for their approval.

Mayor Paradise closed the Public Hearing at 8:23 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt moved to approve zoning case Z-173, a proposed Special Use Permit on behalf of Coker's BBQ for permission to sell alcohol (beer) for on-premise consumption at an existing restaurant, located at 2612 West Pioneer Parkway with the stipulation that the Special Use Permit is effective until change of ownership or occupancy. Councilmember Barrett seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Barrett, Brewster, Funderlic, and Price

Nays:

Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCES**

- 10. Consider any action on the First Reading of the ordinance adopting the annual budget for the Town of Pantego, Texas for the fiscal year October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.**

Council discussed issues including the employee stipend not included in the budget that Council is reviewing. Mayor Paradise reviewed issues still to be discussed including Council chambers and training room upgrades and employee stipends.

City Manager Sean Fox informed Council that a new budget rendition was not presented but the figures in the ordinance being considered are correct. Council discussed total drawdown of reserves in the amount of \$181,787 with stipends included and sales tax revenues.

Council discussed issues including setting a precedence for employee stipends and employee morale.

Mr. Fox next discussed the Council Chamber and training room upgrade costs currently in the budget. He stated that the cost to upgrade the training room would be \$1,789 and Public Safety Chief Tom Griffith confirmed that the training room is used a few times a month.

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Municipal Court Supervisor Thressa Householder presented a proposal for upgrades to Council Chambers as they relate to holding court sessions and discussed issues the court faces including the seating orientation for the judge, possibilities of injury, and insufficient numbers of seats.

Council discussed the issues brought by Ms. Householder including security issues during court sessions and the inability to use Town Hall computer servers. Council agreed to keep the renovation expenditure.

Councilmember Price moved to approve the first reading of an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the Town of Pantego, Texas for the fiscal year October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. Councilmember Barrett seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Barrett, Brewster, and Price  
Nays: Surratt and Funderlic  
Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed 3-2.

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt and Councilmember Funderlic stated that they are against the reserve drawdown amount of \$181,787.

**11. Consider any action on the First Reading of the proposed ordinance adopting the tax rate and tax exemptions for 2012 and levying the tax.**

Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome informed Council that Ad Valorem tax bills will remain the same since the property tax rate is unchanged from the previous year. Mr. Newsome also stated that the Maintenance and Operations funds collected as part of Ad Valorem tax will increase slightly.

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt moved to approve the first reading of an ordinance adopting the tax rate and tax exemptions for 2012 and levying the tax. Councilmember Brewster seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Barrett, Brewster, and Funderlic  
Nays: Price  
Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed 4-1.

**COUNCIL INQUIRY**

None at this time.

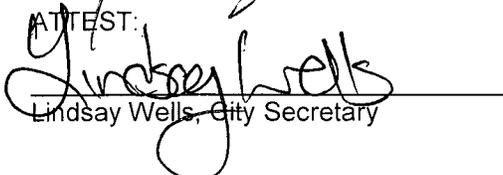
**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Paradise adjourned the regular session at 9:57 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
Melody Paradise, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

