

**ULYSSES CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
August 8, 2012**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor: John Battin

Council members Present: John Duran, Janet Stewart, Dan Widder, Tim McCauley, Warren Devore, Larry Velasquez

Staff Present: Alan Olson, Dave Black, Margaret Perez, Sheila Maxfield

Visitors: Bob Dale, Shayla Jaquez, Marieta Hauser, Matt Traster, Tom Vick, Jen Hittle

**Mayor John Battin** called the meeting to order a 5:00 p.m.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Battin.

Council member John Duran led the room in **Opening Prayer**.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Council member Janet Stewart, seconded by Council member Tim McCauley, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Visitors:**

Grant County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Marieta Hauser, announced the upcoming Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Marieta requested blocking Main Street from Central to South Side of Sykes and Grant Street to the east side of Baughman to the alley behind Berkley Medical Center. The consensus was agreed upon to block the streets to celebrate Oktoberfest.

In addition, Marieta announced the Home Products Dinner will be held on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will be sent out to council members.

Jen Hittle with Celebration Baptist Church asked if a street can be blocked off on August 18<sup>th</sup> for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Block Party. Jen requested to close Saint Mary Street south of the church between Simpson and College from 4-10pm. The consensus was agreed upon to block off the street for their event.

Matt Traster came before the council to ask to consider the land which is northeast near Prairie Heights Addition of town that the City owns to create a park for the neighborhood children to play at. Currently the children have no place to play. Mayor Battin said that Interim City Administrator Alan Olson and Parks Superintendent Sherrie Olson to look into the land.

## **Department Reports:**

### **Business Agenda:**

#### **Old Business**

##### **Budget Hearing & Pass of Budget**

Mayor Battin opened the 2013 budget hearing for comments from the floor. No comments were offered by the attendees. Motion by Council Member Duran, seconded by Council Member Larry Velasquez, to approve the 2013 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **Fireworks Update**

Olson and Council Members Dan Widder and Warren Devore reported that the committee reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July concerns and discussed various possibilities in allowing Ulysses residents to celebrate the holiday safely. Topics included the possibility of having the dealers go through a permit process to ensure only consumer grade fireworks are sold, considered having the dealers pay a fee. Limiting the date of sales and use of the fireworks from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, times will vary. The council also advised the committee to look into the trash ordinance or to address the trash concerns in the ordinance. Olson will contact the County to determine if they will work with the City in controlling the date of sales.

#### **New Business**

##### **Economic Development**

Council Member Widder stated he will wait until the next council meeting to discuss his concerns as he will be attending the Economic Development board meeting the following morning.

##### **Staff Comments**

Don Button, Grant County Emergency Management, shared they had 25 attendees during their two day planning meeting to talk about the state systems. There are new guidelines and he has distributed the updated guide books to the Public Work and Police Department. Regional Council meeting was held this morning. They completed the paperwork for the FY2012 funding

which will be distributed by the October 1<sup>st</sup> to start regional projects. Council member Stewart found the meeting informative and shared her learning's.

Olson reported that the Dirks, Anthony and Duncan audit request for proposal stated that if we accept their bid, the City will be locked in for their services for three years, beginning 2011 audit. Indicating the fee will not exceed \$15,900 for the annual audit. Council member Devore stated the continuity is imperative to the audit process. Olson also reported the Pro Am went well with 11 teams.

Olson continued to share the street crew will be completing the top on the retaining wall, leaving room for railing and poured a sidewalk. The bathroom will be going up at Frazier Park and Olson has met with Scott Selee who is contracted with the state to regulate the septic tanks. Currently a holding tank is buried however there may be a possibility of the staff installing a septic tank for the bathroom and RV parking if the area is not in the flood plain.

Finally, Olson asked the council to cook for staff for the City Picnic on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 p.m. at the Bentwood Golf Course. The Council gladly accepted.

### **Council Member's Comments**

Council member Velasquez inquired about how the trash truck is working for the City.

Council members McCauley and Duran thanked the fireworks committee.

Council member Duran continued to ask that he was approached to consider the City put up a Frisbee Golf Course at one of the parks. He was also asked for the City to allow residence to have chickens to eliminate some of the bugs in town. Council member Duran has been approached by individuals say the Centennial Park is a very nice park.

Council member Stewart shared she attended Don's meeting and made comments about the radio interview.

Mayor Battin had a meeting reference the trees on Main Street. It was recommended that the tree located on corner of Main Street and Grant Avenue needs to be removed before it falls and causes damage. The business owners will be approached to determine their desire for the tree located near their business.

**Adjournment**

At 5:45 p.m. Council member McCauley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member Devore. Meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor John Battin

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Council Member Larry Velasquez

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Council Member Tim McCauley

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Council Member Dan Widder

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Council Member Janet Stewart

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Council Member John Duran

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Council Member Warren Devore

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Interim City Administrator Alan Olson

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City Clerk Margaret Perez