

**MINUTES
AZLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008**

On September 2, 2008, at 6:33 p.m., the Azle City Council convened in a Work Session and Regular Meeting at City Hall, 613 Southeast Parkway, Azle, Texas, with the following members present:

Russ Braudis)	Mayor
Tony Haas)	Mayor Pro Tem
Alan Brundrett)	
Paul Crabtree)	
June Earp)	Council Members
Rouel Rothenberger)	
Eddy Wood Jr.)	
Craig Lemin)	City Manager
Lawrence Bryant)	Director of Administration and Finance
Susie Hiles)	Assistant to the City Manager
Kim Whitton)	City Secretary
David Crawford)	Tax Attorney

With the following members absent: None, constituting a quorum; at which time, the following business was transacted:

WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order – Mayor Braudis called the meeting to order.
2. Reports/Announcements – Council Member Brundrett mentioned a recent trip he took to Central Park with his family and stated it might be in the city's best interest to review the possibility of increased police patrol and speed humps.
3. Consent Agenda

Council Members reviewed the following Consent Agenda items and pulled item 6 from the agenda due to additional FEMA requirements on the proposed ordinance.

Item 4: Minutes of the August 14, 2008 Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Crime Control and Prevention District, the August 19, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting and the August 26, 2008 Special Meeting

- Item 5: Renewal of an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for 50% funding of the Denver Trail extension project
- Item 6: Amending "Article 3.8000 Flood Hazard" to adopt the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Parker County
4. City Manager Lemin briefed Council regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2008-20, amending Article 12.600; entitled Traffic & Vehicles of the Azle Code of Ordinances by revising Section 12.604 to pertain to Auxiliary or Compression Engine Brakes and adding Section 12.605 relating to Violations and Penalties.
5. City Manager Lemin briefed Council regarding proposed Resolution No. 2008-09, accepting an offer for the resale of 612 E. Columbia, Lot 357 Castle Hills Estates Addition, that has been struck off for delinquent taxes.
6. City Manager Lemin briefed Council regarding proposed Resolution No. 2008-10, accepting an offer for the resale of Lot 365 Castle Hill Estates Addition, Columbia Drive that has been struck off for delinquent taxes.
7. City Manager Lemin briefed Council regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2008-21, appointing an Associate Judge of the City of Azle Municipal Court of Record. He stated due to personal reasons Judge Hudman and his son would be unable to attend this evenings meeting. Council agreed to pull this item until the September 16, 2008 meeting.

Adjourned – the work session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Braudis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on August 19, 2008, and announced a quorum present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Braudis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION

1. Mayor Braudis presented a proclamation to Fire Chief Will Scott recognizing the month of September as National Preparedness month.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. Mayor and Council – Mayor Braudis stated he along with various other city officials met with State Representative Charlie Geren to discuss issues pertaining to the

layout of Hwy. 199 and how construction is proceeding. He also stated First United Methodist Church was currently housing 39 evacuees from the hurricane threat in New Orleans. In addition, Mayor Braudis stated he had attended the Chamber luncheon earlier in the day and heard Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition Executive Director Vic Suhm speak in regard to the significant transportation issues we are facing in the Metroplex.

3. Staff – None

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Linda Arrington of 112 A Stewart Bend Ct., Azle, Texas was present to express her concerns regarding Azle employee issues.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Considered approval of the Minutes for the August 14, 2008 Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Crime Control and Prevention District, the August 19, 2008 Regular City Council meeting and the August 26, 2008 Special Meeting.
5. Considered renewal of an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for the 50% funding of the Denver Trail project.

Council Member Haas moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items 4 and 5. Council Member Wood seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. City Manager Lemin stated that state law requires that when tax revenues from properties increases above the previous year, the taxing entity must hold two (2) Public Hearings on the proposed increase.

Mayor Braudis opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. There being no one else to speak in favor of or against the proposed increase the Public Hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m.

8. City Manager Lemin stated that City Ordinance Sections 13.1005 and 13.1104.5 require the base sewer rate and water rates be recalculated each year and readopted as part of the budget approval process.

Mayor Braudis opened the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m. There being no one else to speak in favor of or against the proposed water and sewer rates the Public Hearing was closed at 7:17 p.m.

9. City Manager Lemin stated that Section 9.07 of the City Charter requires Council to hold a Public Hearing on the budget submitted and all interested parties be given the opportunity to be heard for or against any item or amount of item therein contained.

Mayor Braudis opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m. There being no one else to speak in favor of or against the proposed budget the Public Hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

10. City Manager Lemin reviewed the reasons behind the proposed Jake Brake ordinance. He stated the city has received a complaint and determined it would be a good idea to explore the necessity of an ordinance prohibiting the use of Jake Brakes in the city. Council Member Wood expressed concerns regarding safety issues pertaining to prohibiting the use of Jake Brakes. He stated large trucks have to allow an extra 10-15 feet to stop without using the Jake Brake, and in an emergency situation this could be dangerous. Council Member Earp also expressed interest in the safety issues that could arise from the prohibition of the Jake Brake. Citizen Bob Barrington was present and offered his expertise as an ex-truck driver. He too stated safety issues were a definite concern in the elimination of the Jake Brake.

Council Members opted to table this issue until the September 16, 2008 Council Meeting.

11. City Manager Lemin reviewed the property located at 612 E. Columbia, Lot 357 stating the city had received two offers, both offers in the amount of \$5,000; one from Habitat for Humanity and the other from Mr. Reginald Aispuro. City Manager Lemin introduced Tax Attorney David Crawford, who was present to take questions from Council. In response to questions from Council Members, Mr. Crawford explained this property is currently not generating any money for the city. He stated one of the primary reasons behind approving the sale of the property is the city will actually see a profit down the road. He also stated the taxes have been delinquent on this property since 1995, but was not struck off until 2006. In addition, he confirmed any new owner would not be liable for back taxes, including the city liens.

Council Member Brundrett moved to approve Resolution No. 2008-09, accepting an offer from Habitat for Humanity for the resale of 612 East Columbia, Lot 357 Castle Hills Estates Addition that has been struck off for delinquent taxes. Council Member Rothenberger seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

12. City Manager Lemin reviewed the property know as Lot 365 Castle Hills Estates Addition, on East Columbia Drive. He stated the AISD had received an offer from Mr. Dan Maxwell of \$600 and from Habitat for Humanity for \$3,000. In addition, he

stated the taxes owed on the property are \$6,420.06 and since the amounts offered are below the taxes owed, each taxing entity must approve the sale. Also, City Manager Lemin stated if the Council chooses to accept the higher offer they must vote to reject the lower bid as it has already been accepted by the AISD.

Council Member Brundrett moved to approve Resolution No. 2008-10, accepting an offer from Habitat for Humanity for the resale of Lot 365 Castle Hills Estates Addition, Columbia Drive, that has been struck off for delinquent taxes and reject the bid from Mr. Maxwell in the amount of \$600. Council Member Wood seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

13. Mayor Braudis restated the proposed Ordinance, appointing an Associate Judge of the City of Azle Municipal Court, had been pulled until the September 16, 2008 Council meeting. He asked if the proposed Ordinance addressed the Associate Judge being the first backup for arraignments rather than the Mayor. In response, City Manager Lemin explained the Ordinance is written to accommodate this issue but it should definitely be addressed throughout the interview process. Mayor Braudis asked the City Secretary to determine how many times over the last year he had performed arraignments and have that information available for the meeting on September 16th.

DISCUSSION ITEM

14. City Manager Lemin briefly reviewed the Facilities Capital Improvement Plan and introduced Tom Batenhorst from GSBS who was present to outline the proposal to convert the existing City Hall complex into a single use public safety building. He reviewed two conceptual plans showing the general layout of the building and public safety spaces.

In response to questions from Mayor Braudis, Mr. Batenhorst explained the refurbish of the current City Hall could provide 30 years of use but not a viable building for expansion. He also stated cost estimates were based on today's costs with no inflation calculated. He also stated the city would need to look at phasing issues because the city utilizes the current building for three separate entities. Mr. Batenhorst briefly touched on architectural features but explained the current focus was to refurbish internally rather than architectural design.

Council Member Brundrett expressed his desire to determine the property value of the current City Hall area. Council Members discussed alternative locations for City Hall plus combining facilities. City Manager Lemin reviewed the concept of making a Master Plan for the voters to view in the future. Council Members debated the idea of leaving the Police Department at the current City Hall location versus a new site. They also explored the idea of a "municipal complex" where all entities were in separate buildings but on the same campus. In addition, they explored the possibility of having a combined Police/Fire facility. In summary, Council Members

asked Mr. Batenhorst to pull out plans from years prior to determine whether it meets the needs of today.

ADJOURNMENT

No further matters were considered and the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

APPROVED this the 16th day of September, 2008.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



City Secretary



Mayor