


**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 20, 2010**

ATTEST: 
SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary

**VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL
July 27, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Victoria City Council was called to order by Mayor Will Armstrong at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, 2010 in the Council Chambers, 107 W. Juan Linn, Victoria, Texas. The pledge of allegiance was said, and all citizens were welcomed.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Will Armstrong, Mayor
Paul Polasek, Mayor Pro-Tem
Denise Rangel
Gabriel Soliz
Joe Truman
Tom Halepaska

STAFF PRESENT

Charles E. Windwehen, City Manager
Charmelle Garrett, Deputy City Manager
Thomas A. Gwosdz, City Attorney
Linda Champion, Assistant City Attorney
Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., Director, Finance
Doug Cochran, Director, Parks and Recreation
John Kaminski, Director, Development Services
Bruce Ure, Police Chief
Vance Riley, Fire Chief
Cheryl Marthiljohni, Director, Human Resources
O. C. Garza, Public Information Officer
Scarlet Swoboda, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Hagan

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Cm. Rangel commented that there had been some misunderstanding about the funding for the Main Street Project and the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to fund it. She asked the City Attorney to explain how the HOT funds could be used. City Attorney, Thomas A. Gwosdz explained that HOT funds by State statute could be used for convention center facilities, registration of convention delegates, advertising to attract tourists and convention delegates, promotion of the arts, historical restoration and preservation projects, sporting events in which the majority of participants are tourists, enhancement of sport facilities or fields, and signage directing the public to sites of interest. All would have to promote the convention and tourism industry. There are two areas that qualify the Main Street Project and they are architectural art and historical preservation. Mr. Gwosdz advised that HOT funds could not be used for mowing or other operational expenses.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Altinacho (Nacho) Trevino, 708 Morning Glory expressed concerns with the proposed increases in rates at the Community Center. He also had concerns with the way the softball tournaments were run, and suggested Council pay more attention to what was going on at the complex.

Robin Holy, 502 Clay Drive expressed concern with the drainage ditch in front of his house, stating that it was unsafe and too steep for a citizen to maintain and asked that something be done. He suggested that it was a City problem because the ditch was a wastewater management ditch.

ORDINANCES AND OTHER ITEMS WITH PUBIC HEARINGS

Mayor Armstrong opened a public hearing on the following item:

ORDINANCE 2010-14 – GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS SERIES 2010

City Attorney, Thomas A. Gwosdz, read the caption of Ordinance 2010-14, which authorizes the issuance, sale, and delivery of City of Victoria, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$8,600,000. Emergency Reading. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Mayor Armstrong asked if there were any questions from Council or the audience.

Cm. Polasek moved that the ordinance pass on emergency reading, with Cm. Truman seconding the motion. The ordinance passed on emergency reading by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Rangel, Soliz, Polasek, Truman, Halepaska, and Mayor Armstrong
NAYS: None

Caption:

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE, SALE, AND DELIVERY OF CITY OF VICTORIA, TEXAS GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2010, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,600,000.00.

Mayor Armstrong closed the public hearing.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

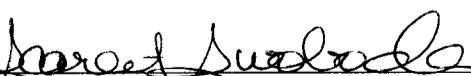
- **Right-of-way Mowing Report.** Doug Cochran provided a PowerPoint presentation on the mowing operations and previous practices. He explained the ordinance and the property owner’s responsibilities. He advised that programs had been cutback because of sales tax reductions. In looking for further efficiencies, staff discovered that some areas being mowed by City staff fell under the property owner’s responsibility. He reported that as a cost cutting measure the number of times the drainage ditches are mowed was reduced resulting in a \$100,000 savings. The City used to use get inmates to do curb work, but the constraints got so severe that they are no longer used. He further reported that the City has a maintenance agreement with TxDOT to mow highway right-of-ways through the City. He advised that the drainage ditches could be mowed one additional time and still stay within the budget constraints.

There was a suggestion by members of Council to place information in the utility bills, provide information on TV15, and have articles in the newspaper to inform the citizens of the ordinance requirements. It was also suggested to check with the Sheriff about using inmates again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Armstrong announced that there was no need for an executive session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVED: 
WILL ARMSTRONG, Mayor of the City of
Victoria, Texas

ATTEST: 
SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary