



## COUNCIL LIVE: Streets, RV parks, waste collection discussed

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SAN ANGELO, Texas —Returning from executive session, Mayor Dwain Morrison wanted to jump to a few of the items that have more public interest, so concerning parties do not have to wait so long for their items to be heard. The council agreed.

Bob Schneeman, interim director of Economic Development presented a recommendation by the city of San Angelo Development Corp. to authorize the increase in estimated construction costs from \$350,000 to \$512,9000.

The \$350,000 was originally approved by council June 27, 2012, to widen PaulAnn and Smith Boulevards leading to Howard College, so students could have a safer route to access the school instead of U.S. Highway 67.

"There's a \$70,000 difference there, so when we presented it to COSADC they said we might as well go ahead and to the full width," Schneeman said.

Councilman Don Vardeman, the council member for the area, said he had received complaints from people at the Christian Village that water was running into their yards. He said, while he was supportive of this item, he reminded staff to remember those residents.

"I don't understand why we can't ever have anything come back even close to the original estimates," Councilwoman Charlotte Farmer said. "These wide variances are disturbing to me."

The funds come out of the COSADC funds, Schneeman said in response to a question from Farmer.

"We have been working on this for two years," Morrison said, the council has been trying to find a safer route for Howard College students to access the school and it should not be put off further.

LeAnne Byrd, provost of Howard College, came forward to speak to the item.

"I want to remind the city council that we came with a plan that would give us the right of way to the campus," she said. "We had to redesign ... it is really important for us to get college student off U.S. 67 as soon as possible."

The item passed 6-1 with Farmer opposed.

The following item was a follow-up to the previous item on the project to extend PaulAnn and Smith Boulevards, to authorize staff to advertise a request for bids in the project.

Just before the council moved to approve it, Michael Dane, assistant city manager and chief financial officer, asked the council whether they would start implementing the alternate bid process, so the city can identify other factors to select a bidder instead of a straightforward price-based selection process.

Vardeman added to his motion that he would like to use the alternate bid process. Councilman Marty Self seconded.

The item was approved 6-1, Farmer opposed.

#### RV PARKS

Councilman Rodney Fleming requested an item to discuss matters concerning campground and recreational vehicle parks as well as manufactured housing parks.

"I'm asking for a moratorium on RV parks in the city," he said, "And I'm asking that we don't put a time limit on it so we can lift it any time we want."

Fleming said he met with the subcommittee that the city manager had formed to discuss regulation of RV parks, manufactured housing parks and temporary housing.

Vardeman said while he was not in opposition to Fleming's desire, he wanted an update on the proceedings of the subcommittee so far.

A resolution will not have the same effect as an ordinance, as a resolution is simply a policy statement, Lysia Bowling, city attorney said. An ordinance is the only vehicle that could accomplish the moratorium.

"There's a moratorium right now," Councilman H.R. "Winkie" Wardlaw III said, citing the previous council's tabling of new RV parks until staff was prepared to recommend a mechanism to regulate them.

Fleming asked how long the moratorium will go on for.

"As long as we want it to; that's why we were elected," Wardlaw said.

Fleming said his understanding was that the decision for regulating RV parks and temporary housing was tabled until

"I would like it to be worded so the resolution, or the tabling, is stronger," he said.

Bowling said to make a moratorium effective, the city needs to have information showing that the moratorium would protect its infrastructure.

Fleming made the motion for staff to begin the process in creating an ordinance for a moratorium on RV parks, which was seconded by Silvas.

The motion carried 6-0, Wardlaw abstained from the vote.

#### WASTE COLLECTION

At Farmer's request, the council discussed renewal of the waste collection and disposal contract between the city and Republic Waste Services of Texas.

Kenny Ramzinski, general manager of Republic, came forward to speak on the item.

"I wanted to take this opportunity to speak for the 90 employees of Republic Services in San Angelo and their families that depend on this contract," he said. "What we're asking for is to extend the contract and renew it ... We understand it's not a right to have this contract, it's a privilege and we work hard each and every day for this contract."

Ramzinski agreed with Farmer's point that the company needs to make some capital improvements and said that is why extension of the contract is so important to Republic.

"The only area we'd really like to address is the landfill portion," said City Manager Daniel Valenzuela, which staff will discuss with Republic.

Otherwise, Valenzuela said, the city has been very pleased with the work Republic has done for San Angelo.

Farmer made a motion to authorize negotiations in renewal of the waste collection and disposal and landfill lease and operation between the city and Republic Waste Services of Texas.

Shane Kelton, director of Operations, noted that talks of the automated system and recycling services are not included in the current contract. The contract is for waste collection and disposal operations.

In public comment, Bob Gregory president and chief executive officer of Texas Disposal Systems asked the council not to renew the contract.

"It's my understanding that this contract has not been bid," he said. "It's time for the city to get a competitive bid."

Gregory said some may be afraid that if they don't renew the contract now they would not be able to find a lower rate for disposal.

"I assure you that you can," he said. "I really, really strongly urge you not to ignore your right in the negotiating posture."

He suggested the council hear more public comment and open itself to other proposals before taking action so hastily, as renewal of the contract would bind the city in a five-year contract.

Bowling clarified the contract contains provisions for amendment and the agreement can be terminated mutually.

She also noted that the contract has not expired yet and will until July 2014.

Farmer said she wanted to give Republic the opportunity to make capital improvement and purchases before the end of the contract.

Morrison said he did not want to renew the contract before the city had to. If Republic purchases equipment and makes capital improvements, the city would be obliged to renew the five year contracts.

Self noted that Republic would not be able to make any purchases before the contract is renewed.

"So what's the purpose of this?" Morrison said.

"What is your motion Ms. Farmer, it's to renew it?" Wardlaw said.

The council and legal staff engaged in further discussion of whether the renewal should be contingent on negotiations of the contract between the city and Republic.

"I'm asking for a one-year — if they renew today, they lose a year ... I think loyalty and service that they have given to us and that we have given to them, that a simple request for renewal is not out of line," Farmer said.

Bowling said it would be in the city's best interest, she feels the renewal should be contingent on negotiations.

Wardlaw disagreed, saying, "a renewal that's contingent on negotiations is not a renewal."

"Charlotte, I agree with you wholeheartedly, but I think we should negotiate first," Fleming said. "Let's not put the cart in front of the horse."

In public comment, local volunteer Harry Thomas addressed the council.

"I never signed a contract without having all the terms in front of me," Thomas said. "Even though I agree with the direction Charlotte is going in, but I agree with Rodney that we are putting the cart in front of the horse."

San Angeloan Billie DeWitt also agreed that the details of the contract should be specified before the council approves it.

"If they order a half-million dollars in equipment, it is going to be very difficult for people to say let's back out of this," she said. "I don't understand the rush to do this."

Fleming said he wanted to withdraw his second on the motion to renew the contract with Republic.

Bowling asked whether the council wanted to authorize staff to begin negotiations of potential amendments to the contract with Republic. Morrison asked if any council member wanted to second Farmer's motion, or it will die.

Wardlaw seconded the motion, because he was confident there would be no issues in negotiations with Republic. Renewal would extend the contract until 2019.

The motion was defeated 5-2, Farmer and Wardlaw aye.

#### BIDS MADE ON SEAL COAT PROJECT

Returning from recess, the council heard an item that had been pulled from the consent agenda before time.

Tim Wolff, interim city engineer, brought bids on the 2013 Seal Coat Project for the council's consideration.

The city received four bids for the project, with the lowest received from Brannan Paving, out of Victoria. The bid amount for the project was not to exceed \$1.71 million.

While bids were also submitted for temporary pavement markings, the city memo states, staff recommends the city not award the project because it found the operation is cheaper if completed by the city's Traffic Operations Division on an as-needed basis.

The project will include more than 900,000 square yards of seal coating, a combination of rock and asphalt. This acts as a preventive measure for normal street wear and tear, Wolff said.

Requests for bids were also sent to Reece Albert Inc., of San Angelo and ??? out of Menard.

In response to a question from Councilwoman Charlotte Farmer, he said the city has had a good relationship with Brannan Paving and that it was not the company that the city had some issues with a couple of years ago.

"How do we pick the streets that receive (maintenance)?" said Councilman Marty Self.

Wolff said the city has a priority list for streets that need maintenance. Staff also looks at the general wear and tear of each street as well as complaints from residents.

City Manager Daniel Valenzuela noted that former city engineer Clinton Bailey initiated an objective survey to prioritize street maintenance. Staff is trying to move toward a more objective approach to street maintenance through this effort.