

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER
AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 6th day of December 2011, the Amarillo City Commission met at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall on the third floor in Room 303 in the Conference Room for review of agenda items and consideration of future agenda items.

The City Commission met at 5:30 p.m. in regular session in the Commission Chamber located on the third floor of City Hall at 509 E. 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

PAUL HARPOLE	MAYOR
ELLEN ROBERTSON GREEN	COMMISSIONER NO. 1
BRIAN EADES	COMMISSIONER NO. 2
JIM SIMMS	COMMISSIONER NO. 4

Absent was Lilia Escajeda, Commissioner No. 3, due to personal business. Also in attendance were the following administrative officials:

JARRETT ATKINSON	CITY MANAGER
VICKI COVEY	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
DEAN FRIGO	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
MARCUS NORRIS	CITY ATTORNEY
KELLEY SHAW	PLANNING DIRECTOR
DONNA DERIGHT	CITY SECRETARY

The invocation was given by David Green, Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Mayor Harpole led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Harpole established a quorum, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and the following items of business were conducted:

ITEM 1: Mayor Harpole presented the minutes of November 29, 2011. Motion was made by Commissioner Simms, seconded by Commissioner Eades, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes.

ITEM 2: Mayor Harpole advised that a public hearing would be conducted on the proposed sex offender residency restriction ordinance. The proposed ordinance, as currently drafted, would restrict individuals who are required to register on the Texas Sex Offender Database because of certain convictions involving a minor child from establishing residence within 1,000 feet of a licensed Day Care Center or defined Premise where children commonly gather such as schools, parks, public recreation areas and others.

Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Norris explained the proposed ordinance and who it will affect. Mr. Norris reviewed the laws regarding sex offender residency. Mr. Atkinson advised that it had been discussed to include a waiver in the ordinance to allow individuals to reside in areas where they would otherwise not be allowed to live.

LeAnn Overstreet, a resident of the Oliver Eakle neighborhood, appeared and stated that she would like the Commission to do more research and look for more alternatives. She stated concerns about neighborhoods such as hers that are not covered under the ordinance and how this will affect them. She also stated that these restrictions will not prevent the sexual offenders from being at places with children. She commented that a decrease in property value could occur if these restrictions are passed. Trinia Fournier, 4427 S. Hayden, appeared and stated that she is not in favor of the ordinance. Janette Litz, 4605 Oregon Trail, appeared and asked if there would be penalties to landlords who rent to sexual offenders. It was stated there would be no burden on the landlord. Robert Taylor, Police Chief, appeared and stated that this ordinance would be a start in dealing with sexual offenders. John Lutz, 2106 S. Tyler, President of the Plemons

Eakle Association, appeared and stated that more research needs to be done before the ordinance is considered by the City Commission. April Leming, 3212 Milam, Executive Director for The Bridge, appeared and also recommended more research be done before a final decision is made. She stated concern for the neighborhoods that will not be in a buffer zone. She noted that parents get a false sense of security if they are in a buffer zone. She stated waivers are good but the offenders can still go anywhere they want and be around children. She advised that a comparison should be made of cities before and after they passed an ordinance. She also stated that she is unsure whether this is a good tool or not. Susan Rogers, 506 S. Lipscomb, appeared and stated concern about how effective the ordinance would be. Dan Rogers, 506 S. Lipscomb, appeared and stated that the objective should be to provide help to sexual offenders. Joseph Hayes, 12000 Ranch Trail, appeared and stated that the ordinance is a temporary solution and does not fix the problem. Troy Timmons, 7714 Stuyvesant, and a Counselor, appeared and stated that most of the offenders are family members, friends or people the children know. He stated that more information and research needs to be done before an ordinance is passed. Carolyn Thornton, 1947 S. Marris, appeared and stated support for the ordinance. The City Commission stated that they would like to obtain more information and gather additional research before they make a decision. There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.

ITEM 3: Mayor Harpole presented the consent agenda and asked if any item should be removed for discussion or separate consideration. Motion was made by Commissioner Eades, seconded by Commissioner Green, and unanimously carried, to approve the consent agenda and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary for each transaction.

A. Award – Modular Playground Purchase and Installation:

Low responsive bidder on Texas BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Contract Exerplay, Inc.

South Georgia School Playground	\$ 71,069.75
Martin Road Park	<u>\$ 82,012.03</u>
Total Award	\$153,081.78

This is a contract to furnish and install new modular playground equipment at the South Georgia School Park and Martin Road Park. The new equipment for the South Georgia School Park will replace existing equipment that is past its usable lifespan and does not meet current safety standards. This project will include both the installation of the new play structure and new surface material. The new equipment for Martin Road Park will replace the equipment that was destroyed by fire in the early fall of 2011. This project includes the removal of the existing, damaged surface material and installation of new surface material. Both play structures meet all relevant safety requirements and codes.

B. Acceptance – 2011 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Award:

Grantee: Texas Department of Public Safety

Grantor: City of Amarillo

Grant Amount:

State Homeland Security Program Law Enforcement	
Terrorism Prevention Activity (SHSP – LETPA)	\$176,175.69
Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)	<u>\$267,608.35</u>
Total Grant Amount:	\$443,784.04

This accepts the 2011 Grant Award for two pass-through programs designed to enhance the provision of emergency management and public safety efforts. The SHSP-LETPA grant is designed to increase radio communication capabilities for the Amarillo Police Department Narcotics and SWAT units. The MMRS grant improves the integration of public health, medical and emergency management capabilities by funding staffing, planning, and equipment purchases through the Amarillo/Potter/Randall Office of Emergency Management.

Mayor Harpole announced that this is the end of the regular agenda, but time is reserved to hear any citizen concerning matters pertaining to City policies, programs or services. The public forum is set under the Open Meetings Act and that during the public forum the City Commission can respond with a statement of fact, a statement of city policy or decide whether to place an item on a future agenda.

Joseph Hayes, 12000 Ranch Trail, appeared and asked about changing the street signs on 24th Avenue to Martin Luther King Boulevard. He also asked if a change could be made for nonprofit individuals and organizations to serve food to groups without having to get a food permit. Mayor Harpole advised him that he would have the staff review his requests. There were no further comments.

Mayor Harpole advised that the City Commission would reconvene to Closed Session and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Donna DeRight, City Secretary

Paul Harpole, Mayor