

City of Houston Lake
Official Minutes of the Council Meeting
March 9, 2015

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on March 9, 2015 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Dan Coronado ,Phil Otte, Rick Cowan and Jean Anderson.

Opening Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Hallauer presided.

Public Discussion

Resident Chuck Stone asked about the amount of interest paid on the General Funds CD. It is a 16 month CD at .3%. He also asked the cost of the gates on the dam and the time it took to get them. Mayor Hallauer said they were \$1200 and it took 3 or 4 months to make as they were custom made during the shops down time.

Minutes February, 2015

The February, 2015 minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

No permits

Treasurers Report

The treasurers' report was approved by the Council.

The Treasurers report shows a grand total balance of \$374,349.24.

Resolution 03-09-15 (paybills)

The City Council approved Resolution 03-09-15 unanimously.

New Business

a. Mayor Hallauer presented the Council with Bill No. 030915-1, Amending Section 215.010 of the Houston Lake City code, Parking. After much discussion the Council voted to table this Bill for further research.

b. Mayor Hallauer submitted to the Council a Co-Op Agreement with Platte County to collect the City taxes. Alderman Cowan made a motion to sign the agreement, seconded by Alderman Anderson. All were in favor.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

The Platte County Sheriff's Department submitted a report for the month of January, 2015.

No Codes Enforcement report.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director Dan Coronado told the Council that on the 25th he attended the Platte County Regional Disaster Exercise. He also gave the Council and Larry Haynes, the President of the Homes Association, an Action Plan for Disaster, and asked for any input that they might have.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan – Alderman Cowan brought attention to a State Senate Bill. No. 323, that would make it possible for a person that owns property, but does not reside there, could be nominated to become an elected official. He advised anyone that is against this to contact their representative. He also mentioned that he had a few complaints on the last snow removal and perhaps it was a little lax or that the blades were set too high. But he complimented the City on their excellent job of snow removal and reminded the citizens that it is their duty to remove the snow around their mailboxes.

Alderman Cowan also wanted to address and correct some statements that have been made during the Mayoral election. There was discussion about the City hiring a City Maintenance Manager. The City Council indeed voted to have a Maintenance Manager. Mr. Cowan contacted that person and that person told Mr. Cowan that he had declined the position.

He addressed another issue regarding a letter written stating that Mitch Kelly, Codes Enforcement Officer, would not enforce city ordinances unless he had a directive from Mayor Hallauer. That is not the case as Mr. Kelly told the Council before he took the job, that his position would be “complaint driven only” and he would not actively “seek out” violations and the Council agreed to that.

Another misstatement involved the 10 planks for the spillway bridge that are in the basement. The value of \$5,500 is not true. Each plank is valued at \$105.00 for a total of \$1,050.00. As far as the statement of “only having 2 bids” for a project, Alderman Cowan said that the Council prefers to work with people that have worked with us in the past.

And lastly, the City Council cannot pass an ordinance to put a sign regarding the use of “Jake brakes” since Houston Lake’s property does not adjoin the highway. MoDot would have to be contacted and asked to place such signs.

Summing up, Alderman Cowan said “I am proud of what we have accomplished in the last few years”.

Alderman Otte – Alderman Otte had a resident ask why the minutes of the last meeting did not reflect what was said in a letter regarding the planks. Again, the planks are being held in case of an emergency since the planks could take 4 to 8 weeks for delivery. He also addressed the issue of the pot holes not being repaired and reiterated what Mayor Hallauer said. Companies will go for the larger bids first.

Alderman Coronado – Alderman Coronado said that everything he wants to say will be published in various newspapers.

Alderman Anderson – Alderman Anderson said that City Hall looks great and was looking forward to decorating it. She also said that the quilt was given to Kathryn Kreider for restoration. There will be a “Meet and Greet” meeting in April on Sunday the 19th at 2 pm.

The walls at City Hall will remain bare for a while but a “Call to Artists” has been initiated but most likely there will not be any wall hangings until August.

She also asked the Council for permission to put up a mantel above the fireplace.

Mayors Report

a. Mayor Hallauer told the Council about a call he received several years ago regarding kids out on the Lake spilling gasoline and lighting it. He asked them if they had called the police and they said they did not. Later on he received many more calls on the vandalism that took place that early morning. They could have easily started the bridge on fire. This is a reminder of why the City keeps extra planks on hand in case of emergencies.

b. Mayor Hallauer said that he had gone back through the Community minutes, back when they were written in pencil in 1939 and back through all the history. He asked Mitch Kelly, who has lived on the lake for 50 years, how many “witch hunts” did he recall? Mitch answered it was too many to count. Mayor Hallauer remembered some of the first City Meetings he had attended. He recalled listening to the Mayor and Aldermen discussing residents by their name and their addresses and how the City was going bring lawsuits against them and the charges they would file, leaving the resident with no representation. The City had gone so far off track that they forgot about the people they represented. The City is not the judge and jury. That’s the reason we have a court system. Does anyone really want to go back to the days of “witch hunts”?

Closed Session

Mayor Hallauer made a motion to go into a closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1) for discussion of Legal Issues, seconded by Alderman Cowan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.