**MINUTES**

**FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE**

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANDERA**

**MARCH 5, 2015**

**AT 6:00 PM IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**AT 511 MAIN STREET, BANDERA, TX**

1. Meeting Called to Order by Mayor John Hegemier at 6:00 pm. Council members Glenn Clark, Suzanne Schauman, Sheila Pumphrey, Charlotte Browning, and Jim Hannah were present. City Administrator, Lamar Schulz, City Treasurer, Betty Brown, and City Secretary, Karen Chesler were also present.
2. No Invocation given & All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Visitors to be heard-no one signed up and no one spoke
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**Council member Glenn Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of January 29, 2015 at 6:00 pm, seconded by Council Member Suzanne Schauman. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

**Council member Glenn Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Adjustments Public Hearing & Special Meeting of February 5, 2015 at 5:30 pm, seconded by Council Member Suzanne Schauman. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

**Council member Glenn Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 5, 2015 at 6:00 pm, seconded by Council Member Suzanne Schauman. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

1. Discussion and Possible Action on the Following Topics:
2. Executive Session: The City Council may convene in executive session to discuss: Consultation with City Attorney and deliberation concerning litigation on EEOC by Kerry Joe Frazier pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 Consultation with the City Attorney and 551.074 Personnel Matters

Council convened into Executive Session with the Attorney at 6:05 pm.

1. Open Session: Reconvene in open session to take action or give direction if necessary on items discussed in Executive Session with regards to litigation on EEOC by Kerry Joe Frazier

Council reconvened the Regular meeting at 6:50 pm. No action was taken.

1. Review and possible changes regarding the Park Rental Event Fees

Lamar Schulz stated the hand out that Karen Chesler passed out a little while ago has the park fees. Currently, an individual or group can rent the City Park for a flat rate of $1,000 per event. What Mr. Schulz is inquiring about is if the city should adopt a fee schedule based on seasonal activity. The monetary rental of the city park is directly tied to seasonal activities available there. Should the fee be per day instead of per event? Should there be a weekday rate versus a weekend rate and Mr. Schulz is proposing an “off season”, an “in season”, and “peak season” to identify specific months and time frames. Obviously, from October to February not much is happening at the park. The value of a day rental at the park this time of year would be different than during the peak summer season when we are getting a sizable return. The city has a responsibility to manage the profit center as a in a business-like manner. The revenue is based on fees and helps the city to maintain a low tax rate. Note: non-holiday weekends for Saturday and Sunday can generate $2,500 to $4,000. Holiday weekends can generate substantially more than that. The biggest weekend is the 4th of July weekend and the park makes a substantially amount of money. The next item on the agenda is to discuss the Labor Day weekend. Last year’s Labor Day weekend for Saturday and Sunday the city collected about $3,000 as entry fees at the gate and does not count the concession stand or the kayaks. In a period of time when our water level was low, e-coli was high, and we had signs posted not to swim. Mr. Schulz feels that it is important to make council aware of this information and at some point wants to have a workshop with more detail to move forward. Mr. Schulz thinks they should maintain the assets but not lose money on the operation of the City Park. Suzanne Schauman stated she feels the finances of the City Park need to be addressed in a workshop. The park does well already on its own. The next item on the agenda is to discuss the Labor Day weekend for Celebrate Bandera. John Hegemier asked if it is a $1,000 per event or per day. Lamar Schulz replied it is per event. Genie Strickland stated anytime she has used the park it was $1,000 per day and not per event. Lamar Schulz replied that is not what our records show. Glenn Clark stated the amount of money the park makes needs to be addressed after the last budget. The city needs to get up-to-date on many things with the water, sewer fees and the water we sell. The city is running behind the time and losing money on everything we do. Charlotte Browning asked can we get the records to see what the park makes and what it has been rented for. Lamar Schulz stated yes. Suzanne Schauman asked on Labor Day weekend does the city still charge at the gate or does Celebrate Bandera. Genie Strickland stated they have not used it in a number of years because they had moved the event to Mansfield Park. Celebrate Bandera wants to talk to the city about moving the event back to the city park. Suzanne Schauman asked if when Celebrate Bandera used the park did you charge admission at the gate. Genie Strickland replied she thinks the first year at the park they charged and then the next couple of years they did not charge. Ms. Strickland stated they rented the park and they let the people come in for free. Suzanne Schauman stated so we collect $1,000 as opposed to the $3,000 potentially we could collect. Let’s put this on a workshop as soon as possible. Genie Strickland stated she will look to see if they paid a $1,000 per day. John Hegemier stated we need to have a workshop to discuss all these items.

 **Council member Sheila Pumphrey made a motion to have a workshop to discuss this item on Thursday, March 12, 2015 after the Public Hearing & Special Meeting, seconded by Council Member Charlotte Browning. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

1. Request to rent the City Park to Celebrate Bandera on September 5th & 6th. Allow setup for the Pow Wow to begin on that Friday the 4th

Buck Murray, President of the Bandera Community Foundation addressed council because they put Celebrate Bandera on each year. The justification for moving the event from Mansfield Park to the City Park is based on what the people have said and what they want to see for this event for children. Mansfield Park is hot. Mr. Murray stated the Pow Wow will be at the front of the park, in the middle will be games and things for children to do and then in the back will be a barbeque cook off. The idea is to have people come back and forth between the court house, the City Park, and throughout town to buy from our businesses. Mansfield Park does not have very much for the children to do and is away from town. By having events set up in both places they can achieve this by coming through town with stuff going on at different times during the day. The Pow Wow is actual Indians with a program but it was hid at Mansfield Park. Thus, they want it at the front of the City Park where people can see it and hear it from town and want to go out there. The Pow Wow is for children with lots of events for children in the middle section of the park. Then the barbeque cook-off at the back and will keep people in Bandera. If you do not have anything for the kids to do they will want to go do something else. We want to keep them here and spend money in our community. Having the event at the City Park will bring more people into town and will pay for Celebrate Bandera throughout the weekend. Genie Strickland requested council take into consideration when you decide how much you want to charge us for use of the park because they will need to at least be able to break even with the gate fee. Mr. Murray stated they are going to pay one fee to get into the park to do everything including the Pow Wow, the children’s games, swim, cook-off and anything else going on in the park. Celebrate Bandera is not trying to make money but just break even and has lost money for the last three years. The foundation does not operate without income of some sort. The bull riding will be out at Mansfield Park at eight o’clock but the goal is to get them to stay in town. Genie Strickland stated the surveys and feedback from individuals attending the event resulted in the economic impact to the county of $2 million dollars. The Bandera Business Association is going to the merchants in town to get a coupon book for discounts at some of the merchants. The merchants sponsor these events and they wouldn’t be able to do it without them. Ms. Strickland does events in other cities and New Braunfels, Johnson City, and those bigger city’s have a harder time raising money but Bandera merchants are all about supporting the events. As event planners it is their responsibility to make sure that we give back to those merchants as best as we possibly can. The taxes collected in the community go to the city. Ms. Strickland asked council to look at the whole picture and how much the event is going to bring to Bandera. Charlotte Browning asked do we have enough electric connections to support an event like this. Genie Strickland replied oh, yeah. Buck Murray stated they want people to come here in the morning and stay for the parade, stay all day long, shop, go to the bars or do whatever they are going to do and then go to the bull riding in the evening before they go home. They want them to have so much fun that they come back the next day and do it all over again. Genie Strickland stated they listened and don’t do a dance to compete against the bars in town. The clubs in town have done big things at night and on the Celebrate Bandera weekend they have big crowds. Genie Strickland replied the park will be cleaned up and ready for the city to open on Monday. Lamar Schulz replied according to Lisa Chacon’s figures she has is the $1,000 per event. Genie Strickland replied but we have never rented before. Genie Strickland replied they have only had one day events. Buck Murray stated they are prepared to rent the park for $1,000 per day and realize the city was making $3,000. Genie Strickland added the city can still open on Monday. Buck Murray stated the park can be open on Labor Day for the city to collect as they will be out of there and completely cleaned up. Glenn Clark asked if this item can be put off for two weeks until our next scheduled meeting on March 19. Buck Murray stated we just need to know fairly quickly because a lot of planning goes into these events and Celebrate Bandera is a year round planning event. Glenn Clark added he understands the importance of everything from your stand point but we have to look at it from the City’s point of view. Brian Black asked who collects the funds when someone comes into the park. Genie Strickland replied Celebrate Bandera. Jim Hannah stated he feels comfortable that after the workshop council will be able to get the answers they need to make a decision. Genie Strickland stated they have not made the decision on closing off the whole park or just part of it for the south Texas cook-off. Toni Kunz stated this is a guaranteed $2,000 for the two days as opposed to not know what they will collect at the park on any given day and other factors might play into whether or not they make the same amount of money.

**Council member Glenn Clark made a motion to table this until our regularly scheduled meeting on the March 19, 2015, seconded by Council Member Shelia Pumphrey. All in favor none opposed.**

1. Request to allow Mayhem on the Medina to use City Park on April 11th & 12th and allow camping for the re-enactors. Waiving the fee as this is a free event for visitors

Genie Strickland stated this is for the Bandera Business Association. This will be the second year for the national re-enactors for the Guild of America where gun fighters come in and have a competition. The re-enactors use the first two sections of the park and the event is free to the public. Last year, the park was open at the other end and they provided a place for the city to set up and she did not think it affected the city’s revenue because people were allowed to come in to do the normal activities. Genie Strickland stated she feels it worked out great but visitors are not able to drive through where people are walking around. The vendors set up in the first section. John Hegemier stated he was surprised last year at how authentic and interesting it was. Genie Strickland added they have a lot more groups coming this year and camps. It is pretty historic and they try to stay true to everything including what they wear. The enactors set the west town toward the entrance. On Sunday, they are going to do fun competitions and at some point in the day they are going to walk through town in customs and visit the stores. Genie Strickland added the event was pretty successful last year.

**Council member Charlotte Browning made a motion to allow Mayhem on the Medina to use City Park on April 11th & 12th and allow camping for the re-enactors waiving the fee as this is a free event for visitors, seconded by Council Member Suzanne Schauman. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

1. Request for a date to start charging an entrance fee at the City Park with the recommendation of March 21

Lamar Schulz stated Jim Hannah and he had a conversation about when to start charging at the park before March 28 which is Palm Sunday and definitely needs to open before Easter. Thus, the suggested date be the 21st would be a good day. Jim Hannah stated we have new staff and to start prior would be some experience before a big crowd. John Hegemier stated that makes sense.

**Council member Jim Hannah made a motion to start charging an entrance fee at the City park on March 21, 2015, seconded by Council Member Sheila Pumphrey. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

1. Request from James McGroarty for street closure on 11th Street between Cypress Street and Cedar Street on Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 6:00 am to Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 3:00 am

James McGroarty stated this is the tenth year for the Boy’s and Girls’ chili cook-off and he would like to request the street closure from 6:00 am through 3:00 am Sunday morning before it clears off the people, bikes, and cook-off area. This is similar to what they have done before with the Gumbo cook-off and it worked out extremely well.

**Council member Charlotte Browning made a motion to approve the request from James McGroarty to close 11th Street between Cypress Street and Cedar Street on Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 6:00 am to Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 3:00 am., seconded by Council Member Glenn Clark. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

1. Request to close streets adjoining the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church for May 3rd 2015 Festival

Lamar Schulz replied that Andy Wilkerson was not able to be here today. Two items with a map were included in council packets for what they are requesting. Glenn Clark stated this is the street they want to close between the church and the Old Catholic School. Mr. Clark wanted to know if they took into consideration the one resident who has a driveway adjacent to the street. Lamar Schulz added he believes they have talked to that resident. Mr. Clark added he thinks it is a great idea to move the festival into town and like Celebrate Bandera the more people in town the better. If they make Mansfield Park their destination and when they get tired they are less likely to come back into town. Karen Chesler added the color maps did not copy well. The first closure is in red and it is 7th Street between Cypress and Cedar and also to close between 9:00 am May 2nd to 9:00 pm May 3rd as written on the map. The other closure is between 8:00 am to 9:00 pm on May 3rd at the corners of 8th & Cedar, Cypress & 8th, 7th & Cypress, and 6th & Cedar. The next map includes the corners marked at the intersections with an X. Toni Kunz asked what is the purpose of closing the corners and the justification behind closing these streets. John Hegemier stated for pedestrian traffic and those needing to get to their house will be able to. Charlotte Browning asked who is going to monitor these intersections. Lamar Schulz stated they will have someone monitoring these streets. Glenn Clark stated they are closing 4th Street and the cross streets which seems a little excessive to him. Mr. Clark stated he wishes someone from the church was here to explain what they are requesting. John Hegemier stated the map has five x’s for street closures. Glenn Clark asked about tabling this until the workshop and invites someone to come explain and give the details. Toni Kunz asked about making the streets one way on the different sides of the streets. John Hegemier replied the city needs to get the input from the Marshal’s Department on their opinion for the traffic control and one-way traffic.

1. Review and possible changes regarding the fees charged for water and sewer taps

Lamar Schulz stated he requests council to move this item to the workshop. A good example is currently the city charges $1,000 for a sewer or water tap fee for both residential and commercial. The fee does not always cover the cost of the tap. The cost for the recent Burger King water tap was $2,836.04, thus, we are in the hole about $1,800 but perhaps there should be a “residential fee schedule” and a “commercial fee schedule.” The fees could be based on the size of the line being tapped. The water and sewer tap fees for the City of San Marcos are “actual construction cost plus 10%.” At least this covers the cost but most times the city is on the short end of the stick. John Hegemier asked if this item should be put on the workshop for next week. Lamar Schulz replied yes, the workshop is going to be March the 12th next Thursday. Suzanne Schauman stated she really wants to applaud JR Higgins for the work he has done. JR Higgins had brought to her attention that he is caring about our city and he is doing a fantastic job. Thank you.

1. Adjourn - **Council member Suzanne Schauman made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 pm, seconded by Council Member Charlotte Browning. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.**

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Karen Chesler John Hegemier

City Secretary Mayor