

Ownership Of Property City Attempting To Sell In Question; Approves Ordinance Prohibiting Use Of Engine Brakes In City

At the January 12, 2015, meeting of the Hart City Council, City Secretary Marsela Marin told Council members that she has been told that the property on the east side of Hart (9th and Ave. C) may not be the City's to sell. A buyer is interested in the property (and who reportedly has cleaned it up and using it for parking), but Marin said that the person who appraises property for the Castro County Appraisal District is not clear that the property belongs to the City. The property, however, is listed on the tax rolls as belonging to the City, according to City Hall.

Use of Jake Brakes Now Prohibited - The Council approved an ordinance prohibiting the use of Engine Brakes (Jake Brakes) within the City limits. Mayor Stanley Dyer said that he's not sure who will enforce this since the City has no law enforcement officer, but relies on the County Sheriff's Dept. It was mentioned that warning

signs prohibiting the Engine Brakes may be installed.

The ordinance allows use of such brakes if necessary to avoid imminent danger. Emergency vehicles are exempt. Penalty for violating the ordinance is a fine of not less than one dollar or more than \$500 per offense.

In other business, a City resident questioned a \$25 fine for a "loose/stray dog." Marin made available a copy of the City's policy for such dogs, which calls for a \$25 fine for first offense, \$50 for second offense and \$100 for third offense and each time thereafter.

The Council voted to make the first offense a warning, but this does not apply to the resident who was already fined.

The Council adopted a resolution suspending the date (Jan. 12, 2015) of Southwestern Public Service's proposed effective rate increase. The City is a member of the Alliance of Xcel Municipalities, which recom-

mended this action.

The Council also adopted a resolution supporting the display of a motto, which some have called a national motto, of "In God We Trust," in a prominent location of City Hall. The Pulse did an internet search, and such action has become somewhat of a trend. It's not clear if the City of Hart will actually display a sign, but adopted this anyway.

Also under action items of the meeting's agenda, Mayor Dyer had requested a posting of raises for City employees, so that instead of the employees' asking for raises, that the matter would automatically be discussed at the beginning of each calendar year. It was noted that Marin and Adrian Rosas got raises in 2014, but Luis Martinez and Ricky Godino did not. It was suggested to possibly consider this before the fiscal year begins on May 1. No action was taken.

Rosas, City Utility Supt., said that the City had neglected to

complete some paper work for the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, regarding the City's wastewater system. He said that he is handling this, and that the former City Secretary had handled such matters and he did not know of the non-compliance until TCEQ notified him.

EDC Tables Signs Purchase For Hart Business

The Hart Economic Development Corporation met Jan. 12 at City Hall. Present were President Danny Rodriguez, Vickie Ethridge, Paul Ramirez and Stanley Dyer. Absent were Tony Leibel, Todd Straley and Lupe Velasquez.

At a meeting some months back, the EDC agreed to pursue the purchase of business signs for Hart businesses. Ethridge was appointed to contact businesses. She did that and compiled a list of 20 interested businesses. A 4X8 sign would cost \$450, it was reported at the meeting. At that price, 20 signs would cost \$9,000. The EDC tabled this.

As of Jan. 12, the EDC checking account contained \$34,439.68. And, there is \$39,165.10 in the Amarillo Area Foundation, which invests the money. At the end of the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2014, \$342.78 had been earned for the EDC for 2014.

It was discussed to put a suggestion box at City Hall for city residents to recommend ideas for the EDC to fund. The box is not yet at City Hall.

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—H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.

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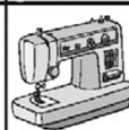
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