

Council

City Manager Ron Holland reminded Council that if the area was ever annexed, the City would have a mandated two and one-half years to provide all services into the area which would include water, sewer and fire protection (including fire hydrants).

Council will have the City engineer study the closest water availability location to the property and provide a cost projection.

Stanley told Council, "We want a subdivision we can be proud of. We also want what is best for the City. If the City can't give us water to the City limits, we'll go forward as we first planned. Residents will have to put in water wells."

Homes built in Lakeview Acres must be at least 2,250 square feet and at least 50% masonry.

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The application for the subdivision was filed in 1993.

Stanley told Council electric and telephone lines will run underground in the subdivision.

Nick Shorter addressed Council in regard to the length of time taken to get the ambulance to the location where his father, Rev. Earl Shorter, had collapsed on July 4. Rev. Shorter later expired. Shorter explained to Council that the ambulance was dispatched to the wrong address.

Commissioner Richard Seifert, who was present, explained that 911 goes through the Sheriff's Office to the Eagle Lake Hospital, which dispatches the ambulance.

"We'll talk to folks and attempt to reconstruct what happened," Seifert told Shorter.

According to Holland, the County and those involved in the dispatching process are working on a method that cuts out the middle man where 911 would go directly to the local hospital.

With dispatching in segments, there is room for error, particularly in what is heard, Seifert explained.

The rural addressing program being developed will have the address come up on a screen along with the phone number. This will cut out verbal error.

"We are working as diligently as possible to eliminate the room for error," Seifert told Shorter.

It was also explained that having to wait for a second person to attend the ambulance sometimes causes a delay.

Council told Shorter the delay problem was not in their control, but expressed its displeasure.

"Our hearts go out to your family for your loss," Mayor Michael Cooper told Shorter.

Cooper continued, "We hear of the times the system broke down and minutes may have made a difference

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in a life, but there are dozens and dozens of times when the system didn't break down and lives were saved."

Council approved a resolution supporting the Main Street Program. The resolution will be included in the application package that was to be submitted July 30.

Council explained that it was not committing to a monetary obligation.

Lesley Matthews explained that grant money is being applied for to fund the program.

"If we're accepted and we can't do it financially, we just can't," Matthews told Council.

"If the money isn't there and we do get accepted, we'll just have to turn the program down," Matthews continued.

The program requires the employment of a Main Street director.

In other, business Council:

•Voted to name FM 3013 from city limit to city limit to avoid a conflict with rural addresses being assigned by the county for 911 that could result in duplicate street address numbering;

•Was reminded by Councilwoman René Cooper-Scott that the offer by the E.H. Henry Foundation for the building to be used as a police department would not put the City under any monetary obligation as reported in the media;

•Concurred that it will continue its insurance coverage with TML for the coming year;

•And learned of a meeting to be held July 29 with CSI concerning police computer hardware and software following legal correspondence from city attorney Don Bendy concerning misrepresentation of facts at the time of purchase.

Back to school means back to the budget

If a recent survey of 111 people attending seminars sponsored by the Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) of the Gulf Coast Area Inc. is any indication, parents can expect to spend hundreds of dollars on back to school supplies in Aug. Unprepared parents could be in for an unpleasant surprise.

Half of the survey participants with children in grades pre-k through 12 plan to spend in excess of \$300 on back to school expenses, reports CCCS, a non-profit organization that offers credit counseling and education. Twenty-one percent expect to pay out more than \$500.

"This is one of those hidden expenses many parents don't think about until it's time to go back to school," stated Nancy Ashmore, regional director of CCCS. "Consequently, many parents haven't budgeted for these supplies."

Indeed, 33% of those surveyed planned to borrow the money needed for back to school expenses. Forty-five percent intended to pay by cash or check. And 21% weren't sure how they were going to pay.

While back to school supplies are expensive, parents can save \$8 on every \$100 by taking advantage of the sales Tax Holiday Friday-Sunday, Aug. 6-8.

"The Texas Legislature has exempted much clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes," says Ashmore. "This is when you should do your shopping."

Here is CCCS tips on managing back to school expenses without breaking the bank.

Estimate expenses. Sit down with each child returning to school and list

every expense you both can think of that will be needed. Include school supplies, clothing, school and athletic shoes, club fees and instrument rentals. Remember haircuts, immunizations and physicals.

Set up a budget. Add up your total; then set spending limits for each child. Figure out what you can pay cash for and what you will need to charge to your credit cards. If you charge items, use the card with the lowest interest rate. Set up a plan to pay off the charges within three months.

Determine needs and wants. If your child insists on a certain brand of jeans or style of shoe, compromise. Tell your child how much you think is reasonable and what amount you will pay for shoes. Have your child make up the difference. This could be an excellent opportunity to teach your child a financial lesson.

Comparison shop. Prices vary from store to store. Check out office supply stores, volume discount warehouses and large drug and grocery stores for the best values. Take advantage of advertised specials during the few weeks before school starts. Take your children shopping with you so they can see first-hand the benefit of budgeting and taking advantage of sales and discount stores.

Consider alternatives. If your child wears a uniform, ask if the school offers a uniform exchange program as an alternative to buying expensive new clothes. Also, ask neighbors and friends with older children if they have outgrown uniforms for sale. Shop resale stores for gently used clothing.

Plan ahead. Take this year's receipts and make a category for next year's budget. This way you can plan ahead to have cash available for your back-to school expenses for the next school year.

For more help with back to school expenses, you can access the CCCS Web sit at <www.cccsintl.org>.

Police

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Stephen Nelson conducted a traffic stop in the 800 block of East D Street, that resulted in the arrest of Tonja Fairchild on outstanding warrants out of Bastrop and Galveston counties. After processing at the police department, Fairchild was transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 4:06 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore arrested Chryl Anise Smith on an outstanding warrant for parole violation. After processing, Smith was transported to the CDC for confinement.

Sgt. Lattimore was dispatched to a loud music call in the 400 block of W. Main St. at 9:21 p.m., but the officer was unable to locate any loud music.

On July 31, at 10:40 a.m., Officer Brian Lasley met with a complainant in the 200 block of Boothe Drive in reference to theft of service. The matter was resolved, and no further action was taken.

At 3:42 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant in the 700 block of E. Main St. in reference to the theft of an air conditioner unit taken from a business and a report was filed.

At 4:47 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant in the 1000 block of E. Main St. in reference to the theft of an air conditioner unit taken from a residence and a report was filed.

Sgt. Lattimore arrested Tonny Anthony Clayton at 9:50 p.m. on an outstanding warrant, processed him, and transported him to the CDC for confinement.

On Aug. 1, Officer Lasley met with a complainant in the 700 block of East A Street in reference to a theft of a pit bulldog puppy, and a report was filed.

At 3:50 p.m., Officer Lasley was dispatched to the 600 block of E. Main St. in reference to a disturbance. The subjects were contacted and asked to leave the premises, and no further action was necessary.

On Aug. 2, at 5:30 a.m., Officer Nelson conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of Boothe Drive, that resulted in the arrest of Kenneth Kasper for unlawfully carrying a weapon. After processing, Kasper was transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 10:45 a.m., Officer Krennek noticed a suspicious vehicle in the 600 block of N. McCarty. The vehicle was identified and belonged to a local person.

Did You Know...

The coldest temperature ever recorded in the contiguous 48 United States was -70°F, at Rogers Pass, Montana, January 20, 1954.



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