

**MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2008**

Mayor Bryce D. Kocian declared a Regular Meeting duly open for the transaction of business at 7:02 P.M. Councilmember Don Mueller led the opening devotion and then Mayor Bryce D. Kocian led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmembers present were: Mayor Bryce D. Kocian, Councilmembers David Samuelson, Ken Freese, Don Mueller, Domingo Montalvo, Jr., and Ray Linseisen.

Councilmember absent was: V. L. Wiley, Jr.

Staff members present were: City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., Finance Director Joyce Vasut, City Secretary Lisa Olmeda, Assistant to City Manager Jackie Jansky, Building Inspector Ronnie Bollom, EMS Director John Kowalik, Community Services Director Jo Knezek, Airport Manager David Allen, and City Attorney Paul Webb.

Visitors present were: David Schroeder with Wharton Economic Development Corporation, Carlos Cotton with Jones & Carter, Lewis Fortenberry, Joe Solito, Jackie Douglas, Bruce Williams, and Carter Miska.

The second item on the agenda was Roll Call and Excused Absences. Councilmember David Samuelson made a motion to excuse the absence of Councilmember V. L. Wiley, Jr. from the Regular City Council meeting held March 24, 2008. Councilmember Ray Linseisen seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was Public Comments. EMS Director John Kowalik invited the City Council to tour the Settrac CRV Emergency Management Vehicle on display on Friday, March 28, 2008 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Wharton Civic Center. No action was taken.

The fourth item on the agenda was Wharton Moment. Councilmember Ken Freese publicly congratulated the Wharton School Boardmembers for selecting Mr. James Bartosh as a finalist as the new Wharton I.S.D. Superintendent. He requested the City Staff send a letter at the appropriate time. No action was taken.

The fifth item on the agenda was to review and consider the proclamation proclaiming April 2008 as Fair Housing Month. Mayor Bryce D. Kocian presented the proclamation, which read as follows:

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it is a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, The principal of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and,

WHEREAS, The thirty-ninth anniversary of this National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bryce D. Kocian, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Wharton, Texas, do hereby proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Wharton and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing Law.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Wharton to be affixed this 24th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eight A.D.
No action was taken.

The sixth item on the agenda was to review and consider the City of Wharton financial report for the month of February 2008. Finance Director Joyce Vasut presented the financial report for the month of February 2008 and stated that the fiscal year was at 42%. Mrs. Vasut stated that the general fund revenues were at 58.49% and the expenditures were at 36.89%. The total ad valorem taxes collected were \$1,785,082. The sales tax for the month of January 2008 was \$137,566 with \$91,711 to the City and \$45,855 to WEDC. The bank balance for February 2008 was \$1,960,398.75 with an average monthly yield of 4.5%. TexPool balance for February 2008 was \$671,908.66 with an average monthly yield of 3.4374%. After some discussion, Councilmember David Samuelson made a motion to approve the City of Wharton Financial Report for the month of February 2008. Councilmember David Samuelson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The seventh item on the agenda was to review and consider the City of Wharton Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007 by Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. presented a draft copy of the City of Wharton Annual Financial Report for fiscal year October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007 by Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P. Mr. Steve Van Manen presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007. He stated that the City Council Finance Committee reviewed the report in detail on March 14, 2008. He stated that the City of Wharton received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reports in 2006. He stated that Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P. was issuing an unqualified opinion stating that the information was materially correct. He publicly commended the City Staff for working with the company to complete the audit process and preparing the Financial Report. After some discussion, Councilmember David Samuelson made a motion to approve the City of Wharton Annual

