

MINUTES  
OF  
CITY OF WHARTON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 23, 2007

Mayor Bryce D. Kocian declared a Regular Meeting duly open for the transaction of business at 7:00 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 V. L. Wiley, Jr., David Samuelson, Ken Freese, Don Mueller, Domingo Montalvo, Jr., and Ray Linseisen.

Councilmember absent was: None.

Staff members present were: City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., Finance Director Joyce Vasut, City Secretary Lisa Stavena, Assistant to City Manager Jackie Jansky, Planning Director Prudencio Arriaga, Sr., Police Chief Tim Guin, and City Attorney Paul Webb.

Visitors present were: Benjamin Sharp with Wharton Journal Spectator, David Schroeder with Wharton Economic Development Corporation, Jim Gilley with Coastal Securities, Carlos Cotton, Ron Sanders, Lewis Fortenberry, Rosemary Rust, Dr. Clark Spears, Retha Johansen, and Sandy Wilkins.

The third item on the agenda was Public Comments. Ms. Retha Johansen addressed the City Council regarding sidewalks. She stated that she was disabled and that the Americans with Disabilities Act was adopted in 1991. She stated that in 2004, the City authorized improvements to the sidewalks in downtown but no work has been done. She stated in 2006, the City Council participated with the Mayor's Local Committee regarding sidewalks and accessibility in the City. She stated that no action has been taken for the accessibility downtown. She stated that disabled persons were not asking for a handout but compliance with a law that was 16 years old. Ms. Sandy Wilkins addressed the City Council regarding accessibility. She stated that she has been a resident of Wharton for three years. She stated that the ADA requirements addressed programs and policies regarding accessibility. She stated that it was not an opinion but a law. She stated that the disabled persons should not have to travel a greater distance than others. She stated that individuals could file an administrative complaint with the Department of Justice or an injunction. She also stated that if federal funding were received, then that funding would be terminated for noncompliance.

Dr. Clark Spears addressed the City Council regarding signage. He stated that he was representing the citizens of Wharton and the Mayor's Local Committee. He stated that three months ago, the Committee requested signage; however, it has not been accomplished as of this date. He stated that signage was very important.

