

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A SPECIAL MEETING

KERRVILLE, TEXAS
MAY 18, 2010

On May 18, 2010, 11:15 a.m. the Kerrville City Council special meeting was called to order in the city hall council chambers, 800 Junction Highway.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Wampler	Mayor
R. Bruce Motheral	Mayor Pro Tem
Gene Allen	Councilmember
T. Scott Gross	Councilmember
Stacie Keeble	Councilmember

MEMBER ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Parton	City Manager
Mike Hayes	City Attorney
Kristine Ondrias	Assistant City Manager
Brenda G. Craig	City Secretary
Travis Cochrane	Director of Information Technology
Kevin Coleman	Director of Development Services
Charlie Hastings	Director of Public Works
Robert Ojeda	Fire Chief
John Young	Police Chief

VISITORS PRESENT: List on file in city clerk's office for required retention period.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Consider city's position with regard to Lower Colorado River Authority's proposed Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) line along IH-10.

Mr. Parton noted the Public Utility Commission (PUC) initiated a project intended to deliver electric power produced from wind generation farms in West Texas to other parts of the state, and LCRA was the successful bidder to construct the CREZ line. LCRA began the process of conducting public hearings in 2009 on several line segments, which did not include the I-10 route at that time. PUC rejected LCRA's application and requested: additional line segment proposals be developed, more constructive input be provided from affected communities, and detailed analysis of the impact on affected communities. Recently, the city received information that the I-10 segment was proposed to be constructed on the north side of I-10 through Kerrville. At the council meeting on March 23, the council directed staff to prepare documents in opposition to the line segment along I-10 in Kerrville; however, the council deferred the matter until the county re-evaluated its position and staff received more detail on that segment. LCRA's application was due to PUC July 6, 2010.

Mr. Hastings noted staff was in the process of gathering information regarding the city's

cost for extending utilities and to quantify the economic impact on future commercial and residential development in the I-10, SH 16 (Sidney Baker), and SH783 (Harper Road) area.

The following comments were also discussed by council:

- The proposed CREZ line along the I-10 corridor would be destructive to Kerrville's economic future and would eliminate the potential commercial development along I-10.
- Route maps presented at LCRA's public hearings did not show an I-10 segment.
- The value of pasture land was considerably less than the value of commercial land on I-10.
- There were already existing lines and right of ways that could be used.
- A line along I-10 would destroy the aesthetic value of the entire valley coming into Kerrville; council should strive to protect and preserve this area at all cost.
- Council should recommend not allowing the I-10 route and explain the economic impact it would have on the city.
- Council should protect Kerrville's interest, but should be prepared to suggest an alternative route.

The following person spoke:

1. Carson Conklin, member of the LCRA regional council, stated it was important that property owners had input regarding how the project would affect their property; the city was not the property owner along the affected route. LCRA had not heard from people in the Whiskey Springs area. There was a lot of resistance to other routes also. A lot of people were trying to keep the line off their property and believed the I-10 route would make more sense than running the line through pristine untouched land. If the city wanted to protect the I-10 corridor, he suggested the city not fight the entire I-10 line, rather get behind one specific area.
2. Sam Smith, resident in Whiskey Canyon, presented a color coded map of the line segments and support LCRA using existing right of ways.

Mr. Parton proposed the matter be scheduled on the May 25 agenda for council's consideration of a resolution in opposition based on economic impact. Staff was in the process of developing an economic impact analysis and contacting property owners to make sure they were aware and had the opportunity to participate in discussions regarding this newly proposed I-10 segment. He would contact LCRA and request representatives attend the May 25 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST:

David Wampler, Mayor

Brenda G. Craig, City Secretary