



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, February 22, 2016

5:30 PM

City Council Chambers

630 E. Hopkins - Capes Dam Workshop

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the workshop meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Guerrero at 5:35 p.m. Monday, February 22, 2016 in the City Council Chambers, 630 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

II. Roll Call

Council Member Prather was absent due to travel.

Present: 6 - Mayor Daniel Guerrero, Mayor Pro-Tem John Thomaides, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Prewitt, Council Member Jane Hughson, Council Member Melissa Derrick and Council Member Scott Gregson

Absent: 1 - Council Member Jude Prather

1. Receive a presentation from Dr. Thom Hardy concerning the possible removal or repair of the Capes Dam for recreation and environmental purposes and the implications for the Mill Race; and provide direction to Staff.

Dr. Thom Hardy provided the Council with a presentation concerning he and Dr. Nolan Raphelt's study of the effects of changing height of Cape's Dam on recreation, Texas wild rice and fountain darter habitat in the San Marcos River. Following discussion the Council provided direction to Staff to bring back an action item for the removal of Cape's Dam and filling of the Mill Race. Staff will provide the Council with the cost of filling the Mill Race.

III. Question and Answer Session with Press and Public.

Sherwood Bishop, 124 Elm Hill Court, Chair of the Parks Advisory Board, provided an answer to Mayor Pro Tem Thomaides about what happened when Fish and Wildlife to their meeting. He stated that they said that they would be willing to remove Cape's Dam and the reason being that their studies agreed with Dr. Hardy's studies and they are in the business of trying to protect the environment. He also stated that if the City decided that they wanted to replace the dam then they would not fund the removal of the current one.

Ben Kvanli, 602 N IH 35, asked how many optimal flows did Dr. Hardy have

for his modeling? Dr. Hardy responded with probably 8,000-10,000 samples were used to derive his conclusion and that flow rates were anywhere from 80cfs to 300cfs. Many flow rates were observed over a period of 12 years when they collected that data.

Alfred Mcallister, 1780 Live Oak Canyon Rd., Dripping Springs, TX, asked if the dam is removed if there are any unintended consequences that can be projected? Dr. Hardy responded that he could not envision any.

John Cunningham, 1116 Haynes, asked if this was purely an environmental action and how much effort has been made in studying the economic impacts. Mayor Pro Tem Thomaides provided a response that the Council has been keenly interested in recreational impacts. Rodney Cobb, Executive Director of Community Services, stated that there has not been studies done on the impact just yet strictly because they were wanting to see what the outcome of this meeting was and that they had started to think about what they would need to do if the dam was taken out or left. He also provided a response regarding if there will be recreation if the dam is removed and the more that he has looked at Dr. Hardy's presentation the more comfortable he has become with the it not impacting recreation all the up to Rio Vista.

Council Member Scott Gregson asked Rodney Cobb to describe the differences between recreational use without the dam and with the dam, with the Mill Race and without the Mill Race. Mr. Cobb responded that the land around the area will have an impact if recreation increases, but he does not see it becoming a Rio Vista. It may have some funding and expenditure impacts later.

IV. Adjournment.

Mayor Guerrero adjourned the workshop meeting of the San Marcos City Council at 7:51 p.m.

Jamie Lee Pettijohn, City Clerk, TMRC

Daniel Guerrero, Mayor