

CITY OF CONVERSE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2011  
7:00 PM

The City Council of the City of Converse met in a special meeting at the Converse Municipal Complex on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7:00 PM to discuss various items on the agenda. The following were present:

Mayor Al Suarez	MPT John Shadron, Place 3
Council Member Renee Paschall, Place 1	Council Member Grant Lopez, Place 2
Council Member Randy Pannell, Place 4	Council Member Robin Benbrook, Place 5
Council Member Steve Brown, Place 6	Ms. Kathy Richel (CC Place 1 Elect)
Mr. Andy Selko (CC Place 3 Elect)	Ms. Laura Beehler (CC Place 5 Elect)
Ms. Shawna Dowell, City Manager	Mr. John Quintanilla, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Rick Jamison, Chief of Police	Ms. Michelle Burns, EDC Executive Secretary
Mr. John Law, City Attorney	Ms. Lisa Jarrett, 436 <sup>th</sup> District Court Judge
Ms. Penny Hieronymus, City Secretary	

1. Call to Order

At approximately 7:00 PM, Mayor Suarez called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

Associate Pastor John Woolery of New Life Baptist Church gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: To the U.S. Flag led by Mayor Suarez  
To the Texas Flag led by Mayor Pro Tem Shadron

Mayor Suarez led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

MPT Shadron led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

4. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors

Mayor Suarez stated all Council members are present.

Mayor Suarez recognized Ms. Lisa Jarrett 436 District Court Judge, City of Live Oak Mayor Mary Dennis, JISD School Board Member President Jose Macias, JISD School Board Vice President Arnold Salinas & Commander of the American Legion Dave Parrish.

5. Special Consideration Items

A. Acton to Canvass City Election Votes and Certification of Results

Mayor Suarez read the canvass of the General Election results held on May 14, 2011 (official tabulation):

**VOTES**

MAYOR:

Al Suarez	543 Votes
Jon Lindgren	513 Votes

CITY COUNCIL PLACE 1:

Kathy Richel	511 Votes
Renee A. Paschall	486 Votes

CITY COUNCIL PLACE 3:

John P. Shadron	510 Votes
Andy Selko	516 Votes

CITY COUNCIL PLACE 5:

Deborah E. James	498 Votes
Laura Beehler	508 Votes

MPT Shadron made a motion to approve agenda item #5 A. Council member Paschall seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

B. Action to Swear in Mayor Al Suarez

436<sup>th</sup> District Judge Lisa Jarrett swore in Mayor Suarez.

Mayor Suarez recognized his son, gave an acceptance speech, thanked everyone, is proud of the past CC's many accomplishments.

C. Action to Swear in Councilwoman Kathy Richel, City Council Place 1

436<sup>th</sup> District Judge Lisa Jarrett swore in Council member Richel.

D. Action to Swear in Councilman Andy Selko, City Council Place 3

436<sup>th</sup> District Judge Lisa Jarrett swore in Council member Selko.

E. Action to Swear in Councilwoman Laura Beehler, City Council Place 5

436<sup>th</sup> District Judge Lisa Jarrett swore in Council member Beehler.

F. Recognition of Departing City Councilwoman Renee Paschall

Mayor Suarez, City Council & City staff presented a plaque to departing Council member Paschall.

Council member Paschall stated she was the 1<sup>st</sup> African American female on this Council, is proud of the accomplishments this past CC has made, thanked City staff/Dept. Heads, get another Animal Control Officer & thanked everyone.

G. Recognition of Departing City Councilman John Shadron

Mayor Suarez, City Council & City staff presented a plaque to departing Council member/MPT Shadron.

MPT Shadron gave a departing speech, thanked everyone & is proud of this past CC's accomplishments.

H. Recognition of Departing City Councilwoman Robin Benbrook

Mayor Suarez, City Council & City staff presented a plaque to departing Council member Benbrook.

Council member Benbrook gave a departing speech thanked everyone & is proud of this past CC's accomplishments.

6. Recess – 15 Minutes

At approximately 7:35 PM, Mayor Suarez called for a recess.

At approximately 7:53 PM, Mayor Suarez called the meeting back to order.

7. Citizens to be Heard. This time is provided for Citizens to address City Council on any issues and concerns. No City Council discussion or action can be taken if the item is not on the agenda. Please limit your remarks to three (3) minutes and state your name and address for the record. No personal attacks shall be allowed.

None

8. New Business

A. Action to Select Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Suarez stated this position is a position required when the Mayor is not available or has to fill in for meetings or any actions & when this happens it has the full responsibilities & duties as the Mayor. He stated this is a very important position that CC will select tonight & it will be by all 7 of CC that will select their own MPT this evening; usually it is someone that has experience. Tonight, we have 3 CC members that have a year on Council; it is a matter of seniority & has been in the past since he has been here since 2005. We have given it to the highest person seniority & then when there are people that are equal they select, this time we have 3 members that have the same amount of time. Mayor Suarez stated what they are going to do, what he would like to do is -

he is going to nominate all 3 Council members that are eligible, he will make a motion then we will have a 2<sup>nd</sup>, then if there is any discussion, he will do a roll call vote. The person that has the Council member of the 3 that has the 4 votes from the 7 members here will be the MPT for the 2011 year.

Mayor Suarez nominated Council members Pannell, Brown & Lopez as candidates for Mayor Pro Tem. Council member Richel seconded the motion.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion before he takes the roll call vote.

Council member Brown nominated Council member Lopez.

The Mayor stated we would take nominations in a minute, we are going to do a recall, all 3 have been nominated & there has been a 2<sup>nd</sup>, then we are going to take a roll call vote from each person so we know who your vote is for.

Council member Brown nominated Council member Lopez.

Council member Lopez voted for Council member Brown.

Council member Pannell proudly nominates & supports Council member Lopez.

Council member Beehler stated Council member Lopez.

Council member Richel stated Council member Brown.

Council member Selko stated Council member Brown.

The Mayor asked if Penny had gotten all of the votes & asked what we had.

Ms. Hieronymus stated we have a 3 to 3 vote & the Mayor is the tie breaker.

Mayor Suarez stated this is not easy & again it is a position that he believes he has asked almost every Council member to fill in throughout the year & Council member Pannell filled in for him today at the ribbon cutting, because there are just a lot of meetings out there & not enough time of the day. He is going to go by duties & responsibilities throughout the year & performance. He knows these 2 members very well, if he could do both he would to be honest with you. But, unfortunately, it does not allow him to do this & he has to have 1, officially have a MPT. The Mayor said his vote is going to be Council member Lopez. So, Council member Lopez is going to be the next MPT. The Mayor asked if Council member Lopez would accept this position.

Council member Lopez stated absolutely.

B. Assignment of City Council Seating by the Mayor

Mayor Suarez stated he would have this posted at the next meeting.

C. Assignment of City Council Liaison Responsibilities by the Mayor

Beautification & Environmental Commission – Council member Beehler

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Planning & Zoning – Council member Brown  
Building & Standards Commission – Council member Pannell  
Park & Recreation Commission – Council member Richel

This will leave the other 2 Council members to fill in on a needed basis.

9. Adjournment

At approximately 8:04 PM, Mayor Suarez adjourned the meeting.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2011.

ATTEST:

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Al Suarez, Mayor

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Adriana I. Hieronymus, City Secretary