

District Four Quarterl-E-News First Quarter 2007

Eighth Edition

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[Help Keep Council Meetings on C-Gov](#)

A recent poll, taken by our Council Clerk, found that three out of five council members want to budget \$0 to pay for taping council meetings to air on the Government Channel. We currently pay about \$450/month to cover the cost of taping and editing together the council meeting. It airs on the Government Channel (more than 20 times during the month) at no charge to the council.

As many of you know, I originally faced council opposition in early 2006 when I first asked to air our council meetings. As a result, I paid for the cost of taping the meetings, which at the time was only \$135/month, from February through June. In July of 2006 the council began paying the expense and two cameras are now used, which has increased the cost.

I feel, very strongly, that having the council meetings aired on C-Gov is very beneficial. Not only do our citizens have more access to information, but our elected officials are held accountable for their actions by people who know what transpires at the meetings.

Some have said that Sulphur City Council meetings are great entertainment and maybe even a little comic relief. I admit that we need some work, but who doesn't. That shouldn't be a reason to hide from the public eye. Others have expressed concerns that people who come to speak before the council are too embarrassed because of the cameras. I find that hard to believe – we have no shortage of people who speak at meetings.

If you agree that providing public access to the Sulphur City Council meetings through C-Gov is good government and should be continued, please let the other council members know. Below is a link to each of the member's e-mail addresses.

District One – Dru Ellender, dрутwo@hotmail.com

District Two – Mike Koonce, mwkoonce1975@aol.com

District Three – Chris Duncan, cduncanagency@bellsouth.net

District Five – Stuart Moss, mossstuart@hotmail.com

[House Numbers](#)

Did you know that there is an ordinance in the city requiring that all buildings, including houses, be numbered? It's Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 5-3. One reason for this requirement is emergency response – to ensure that the police, ambulance and fire department can quickly identify the building to which they are called to respond.

House Numbers must be visible from the street. They are to be a minimum size of 3"X2" and should contrast with the home so they are easily visible. The numbers are to be near the front entry way of the home. If you have neighbors without visible house numbers, please tell them of this ordinance. If you or someone you know needs help getting numbers placed, please let me know.

[Camera Enforcement](#)

Too many unanswered questions, a sales man convicted of a felony and a large group of vocal citizens opposed to camera enforcement have basically stopped this program in its tracks. The council has asked for an attorney general's opinion as to whether or not it is legal in this state, but no matter the outcome of the response this potentially useful enforcement tool has an up hill battle before it is considered again by the Sulphur City Council. If you have questions – let me know.

[Trash Bash](#)

Sulphur's Trash Bash is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, from 7:00 – 2:00 p.m. It is scheduled to be held at the WW Lewis Junior High School back parking lot. The following items will be accepted.

White Goods

Washers, Dryers

Refrigerators

Air Conditioners

(with compressors removed)

Tires

(limit 4 per vehicle)

Building Materials

Lumber, Fencing,

Landscape timbers,

Shingles, Limbs &

Leaves, Metal, Vinyl

Siding

NO ITEMS WITH FREON

WILL BE ACCEPTED

Auto Batteries

Used Motor Oil

HAVE ALL ITEMS SEPARATED AND LOOSE ITEMS BAGGED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR REMOVAL.

[Rita Update](#)

The city has been reimbursed by FEMA for most all expenses incurred in response to Hurricane Rita and the recovery. The total collected to date is \$2,062,872.17. Many thanks to Brandon David and everyone at the city who did a fabulous job accounting for the expenses and working with FEMA to get reimbursed.

The Road Home Program continues to move slowly, but it is moving. As of this writing, approximately 112,000 applications have been received with only about 3,000 closings, but there are about 11,000 applicants in the closing process. In addition to the homeowner program, the Road Home does have a Rental Property Program. If you or someone you know needs more information about the Road Home Program, visit them on the web at www.road2la.org or call 1-888-762-3252 – choose prompt #1.

[To Pave or Not to Pave?](#)

You may have heard the controversy regarding whether or not the city to pave Arena Road to the West Cal Community Center. For me there was no question from day one – we have a multimillion dollar community center sitting at the end of two dirt roads. Thousands of people visit this facility each month and it should be driving economic development in the area – yet it hasn't. Cities invest in infrastructure all over this country to encourage economic development – development that would bring in tax dollars, jobs and other benefits that far outweigh the initial cost of the infrastructure investment.

Two council members and the mayor disagreed with that logic and the ordinance to pave the road was vetoed. Hopefully the road will get paved anyway, but that's yet to be seen. The property owners have agreed to pave for a portion of the road, but not all the way to the community center. One of the same property owners also decided to charge the city for a right-of-way that he was previously going to donate to us to help with a drainage problem – so it looks like we're going to pay for the road paving one way or another.

My bigger concern here is related to our lack of vision as a city when it comes to economic development, infrastructure, annexation and planning. If you'd like to read more about my position on this topic, please visit my website at www.nancytower.com .

Subdivision

There has been a good deal of controversy surrounding the proposed Frenchman's Creek Subdivision to be located behind the library on Cypress Street. The council was asked to approval preliminary plans for a subdivision that would meet all our new subdivision requirements for drainage, roads, lighting, even a park for kids. This subdivision would be the first one approved to meet all of our new requirements.

However, the council focused more on the controversy surrounding the issue than on the issue at hand. We were not asked for our opinions on the price they should charge for the rental property or on the size of the homes or on the "type" of people who would be allowed to rent there.

The controversy arose because the homes in this subdivision will only be available for rent to people who make 60% or less of the median income in our parish. For a family of three, this would be equivalent to the salary of an entry-level teacher, police officer, fire fighter, etc.

The request for preliminary approval failed for lack of a second when it was brought before the council in March. I believe it will likely be brought forward again and I hope that the council will put biases aside, address the concerns of the school with plan changes – and approve the preliminary plans. If you have questions about this issue or want to discuss it further, feel free to give me a call or send an e-mail.

Youth Advisory Council

The Sulphur City Council recently voted unanimously to create a Youth Advisory Council. The Council will be made up of senior high school students, age 16 or older with a 2.5 GPA or better who are active in the community. As the Council Member for district four I have been asked to identify one male and one female student in my district who would be interested in serving. If you would like to nominate someone please let me know as soon as possible.

CAP Meetings

The District Four CAP continues to meet on a monthly basis. Recent CAP discussions have included recycling, drainage, traffic enforcement and updates on various issues being addressed by the council. The CAP meeting minutes are available on the web at www.nancytower.com . All CAP meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Substation.

Adopt-A-Spot Is Official

In December the council voted unanimously to acknowledge the Adopt-A-Spot program. The District Four clean up continues to take place on the first Saturday of every month. Interested volunteers meet at Suzanne McCroy's dental office on Maplewood Drive at 8:00 a.m. For more information to get involved or adopt-a-spot for your group, please call our coordinator, Susan Settoon Richards, at 626-1349.

Adopt-A-Spot Volunteer



Building On Our Community Strengths