

Council gives nod to building code amendment

Written by Kerry Craig

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Sulphur Springs City Council members gave approval to an amendment to the city's Code of Ordinances in a regular meeting Tuesday evening.

The amendment Article VI, adopting the International Property Maintenance Code into the city's code, will enable the city to work more closely with property owners in making sure buildings meet all safety requirements and issues.

Council members again postponed action on a second ordinance on the agenda that would amend zoning rules, completely replacing the Signs and Identification Regulations. The ordinance was first presented to the council in June and has been on the table since.

On first reading of an ordinance creating an Enterprise Zone for Saputo Foods, the council gave approval and will hear the ordinance in a second and final hearing in the September meeting.

Sulphur Springs Police Chief James [Jay] Sanders, who was appointed to replace retiring Chief Jim Bayuk, was formally sworn into office during the council meeting.

In his routine report to the council, City Manager Marc Maxwell told the council that construction work on Davis Street in front of City Hall has been completed and with that completion comes the end of road construction in downtown Sulphur Springs.

Maxwell also gave a quick report on the status of water in Cooper Lake.

The lake level is more than eight feet low, but is still more than a foot higher than at this same time last year.

The dredging operation at the lake by North Texas Municipal Water District to deepen the channel from the lake to the intake structure is continuing and is about 25 percent complete.

With much citizen concern about potholes and other street problems, the city manager said that in the past month, the city's Capital Construction Division has patched 1,073 potholes, about half the pothole problems that have been identified.

The crews would be back on the street filling potholes next month.