

CITY OF DEER PARK
710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET
DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536

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Minutes

of

A JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS, THE DEER PARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION HELD AT CITY HALL, 710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET, DEER PARK, TEXAS ON JULY 27, 2020 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON	MAYOR
SHERRY GARRISON	COUNCILWOMAN
TJ HAIGHT	COUNCILMAN
TOMMY GINN	COUNCILMAN
BILL PATTERSON	COUNCILMAN
RON MARTIN	COUNCILMAN
RAE A. SINOR	COUNCILWOMAN

MEMBERS OF DEER PARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PRESENT:

GEORGETTE FORD	PRESIDENT
LAURA HICKS	VICE PRESIDENT
ERIC RIPLEY	MEMBER
DOUG BURGESS	MEMBER
FAYLENE DEFRANCIS	MEMBER
LES ELLARD	MEMBER

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENT:

GEORGETTE FORD	CHAIRMAN
JO KIEFER	VICE CHAIRMAN
SHERRY REDWINE	MEMBER
JAMIE COX	MEMBER
ERIC RIPLEY	MEMBER

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAMES STOKES	CITY MANAGER
GARY JACKSON	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
SHANNON BENNETT	CITY SECRETARY
CHARLIE SANDBERG	PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton opened the meeting on behalf of the City Council, President Georgette Ford opened on behalf of the Deer Park Community Development Corporation and Vice Chairman Jo Kiefer opened on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:00 p.m.
2. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – No comments received.
3. THE DEER PARK CITY COUNCIL, THE DEER PARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE DEER PARK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WILL DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO TYPE B SPECIAL ELECTION CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2020 – City Manager James Stokes gave an overview of the adoption of an ordinance calling for a Special Type B Economic Development Sales and Use Tax Election on May 2, 2020 to authorize purposes of the Type B revenues in addition to the purpose approved by the voters at the 2015 Election. On March 13, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 posed an imminent threat of disaster in the State and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in the State, and the Governor has subsequently extended the disaster declaration and in response to the Governor’s Proclamation, the Texas Secretary of State provided guidance to election officials, advising election officials to postpone elections to be held on May 2, 2020 to the November 3, 2020 uniform election date. Mr. Stokes advised all three individual groups, City Council, Community Development Corporation and the Parks and Recreation Commission of the option to reconsider the Special Election date to May 2021 due to possibility of uncertain issues that may occur with a November election to include the unknown impact COVID-19 has had on the sales and use tax revenues and the Special Election options placed at the bottom of the ballot.

Assistant City Manager Gary Jackson gave an overview of the ballot proposition that includes the seven specific projects that were approved by resolution which states the cost shall not exceed 20 million dollars. Mr. Jackson discussed the potential broadening of the list of allowable projects with this Special Election and the financial bonding capacity and the ability to collect 42,000,000 dollars for bond debt over a 25 year period. The key factors, if the election is postponed, could have an uncertain effect like higher project costs that may exceed projected revenues and possible inflation. The intention is to move forward and balance all factors including COVID-19.

Mayor Mouton asked, “The question to begin with is, do we maintain the November election or do we move it to May 2021?”

Councilman Patterson commented, “Yes, I say move it to May. I don’t think we have any other option.”

Deer Park Community Development Corporation Vice President Laura Hicks asked, “If things are still uncertain, can we move it beyond May 2021?”

Mr. Stokes responded, “Yes, you can. There are only two dates a year that you can have an election, in November or in May. You can have the election in November of 2021, and that would not be a year in which there is a statewide ballot or a national ballot for president or governor, those are only in even numbered years. You can also look at having an election in May of 2022, but the longer you push that out, the more you are into the problem that was described earlier of limited choices with the amount of money. In 2015, we committed to spend 6 million dollars to improve the Community Center. Since then, we have decided that it is not going to go nearly far enough to even have a swimming pool or any other things we envisioned.”

Deer Park Community Development Corporation President Georgette Ford commented, “I am assuming everyone understands that we would have to get together again because the numbers we used in the proposed budget and as we just saw, are not even close.”

Mr. Stokes commented, “If Council wants to delay this, into late Fall, when we get closer to call an election in May, we can regroup and hear from Stephen Springs, the Architect, and what he is showing for costs and talk about if we can still fund it. We would then have several months of sales tax collection and not just a couple of months.”

Mayor Mouton commented, “All of this is valid, but in some point in time, for all the reasons Mr. Stokes stated, and the fact that we still got something out of last election, we are going to have to make a go of it. It will probably be the best time to do it this coming May.”

Councilman Martin asked, “You mentioned cancelling the election. It’s not just for the Type B, it’s for Council seats 4, 5 and 6?”

Mr. Stokes responded, “No. There are two elections, a General Election, which is for Council seats 4, 5 and 6, and a Special Election. We would be cancelling the Special Election.”

After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the City Council, Deer Park Community Development Corporation and the Parks and Recreation Commission to move the Special Election to May 2021.

4. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting on behalf of City Council, President Georgette Ford adjourned on behalf of the Deer Park Community Development Corporation and Vice Chairman Jo Kiefer adjourned on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Shannon Bennett, TRMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton, Mayor
City of Deer Park

Georgette Ford, President
Deer Park Community Development
Corporation

Jo Kiefer, Vice Chairman
Parks and Recreation Commission