



## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

THE 1860th REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS HELD IN CITY HALL, 710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET, DEER PARK, TEXAS ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON	MAYOR
SHERRY GARRISON	COUNCILWOMAN
TJ HAIGHT	COUNCILMAN
TOMMY GINN	COUNCILMAN
JUSTIN LEAGUE	COUNCILMAN
RON MARTIN	COUNCILMAN
GEORGETTE FORD	COUNCILWOMAN

### OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAMES STOKES	CITY MANAGER
SARA COSTLOW	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
JIM FOX	CITY ATTORNEY
ANGELA SMITH	CITY SECRETARY

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INVOCATION – The invocation was given by former Councilman Bill Patterson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilman Ginn led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.

1. SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF LIFE SAVING MEDALS TO HONOR 20 MEMBERS OF DPVFD FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – Fire Chief Phillip Arroyo spoke of the team who was involved in the life saving efforts performed at a residential structure fire. The incident had active signs of ignition (smoke and flames visible) where the team executed forcible entry, applying correct extinguishment principles and deployment of certain tactics that had only been performed in training for lifesaving acts. Due to commendable actions, this team is being recognized for the effort put forth that allowed the victim involved to leave the scene towards the hospital with a pulse, and with the ability to communicate. Chief Arroyo expressed his gratitude and pride in the team and recognized Firefighter Steven Keeney, Firefighter Victor Rodriguez, Captain Michael Castaneda, Firefighter Jonathan Neal, Deputy Chief Keith Vasquez, Captain Kenneth D’Alessandro, Deputy Chief Greg Bridges, Firefighter Ricky Lores, Deputy Chief Max Archer, Firefighter Wendell Safford, Firefighter Brandon

McKissack, Firefighter Brett Conaway, Safety Officer Tommy Archer, Paramedic EMS Captain Tanner Gurtner, Paramedic Brandi Tallady, Paramedic Travis Payne, Paramedic Clyde Coxie III, Paramedic EMS Lieutenant Joshua Hudson, EMS Chief Andrew Smith, Assistant Fire Chief and scene Incident Commander Phillip Arroyo.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE –

Geary Fox, 1317 Brookmeade Ct, Deer Park, expressed his displeasure with the proposed tax rate. Mr. Fox stated that he is on a fixed income and that the City of Deer Park needs to learn to live within realistic means and should cease all new projects within the city.

Mayor Mouton commented, “In reference to fixed incomes, all senior citizens are capped on their taxes.”

Finance Director Nicole Ganey spoke on the language pertaining to the components of the tax rates proposing an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.720000 per \$100 of valuation. Ms. Ganey explained the total proposed tax rate is composed of two tax rates. The first component is the debt service tax rate that is imposed to collect tax dollars to service Deer Park’s debt service requirements and the second component is the maintenance and operation rate that is collected to run the operations of the city and provide services. Ms. Ganey also included the explanation of the “no new revenue” tax rate that enables the city to evaluate the relationship between prior taxes and current taxes. The ordinance proposing the new tax rate for maintenance and operations will be higher from last year’s tax rate, effectively by 2.92%. Taxes will be raised for M&O on a \$100,000 home by -\$5.16, utilizing the comparison of the levy imposed on that \$100,000 home with the current year adopted rate and the proposed M&O rate for next year. Ms. Ganey emphasized that the maintenance and operation rate being adopted comes in lower than last year.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2024 – The public hearing was opened at 7:44 p.m. City Secretary Angela Smith read the Notice of Public Hearing. (Exhibit A)

Mayor Mouton called for those desiring to speak in favor of the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024. No one spoke.

Mayor Mouton called for those desiring to speak against the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024.

Thomas Lake spoke against the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024 and stated that he believed it was just another job at pockets of citizens and emphasized he is against it.

Cheyenne Baptiste spoke against the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024 and stated that increasing the taxes makes it difficult for the younger generation to accomplish the American dream of owning a home and emphasized she is against it.

Ed Tindell spoke against the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024 and stated that sidewalks for disabled citizens do not exist and has questioned what the city is spending the tax money on and emphasized he has never used any of the city amenities.

Robert Joseph asked about “frozen taxes”. City Manager James Stokes responded and explained that there are several levels of ad valorem taxation and that this hearing pertains only to city taxation that is about 25% of the bill. The bill consists of school taxes and county taxes but on the residential homestead portion of the bill it will stay “frozen” once the age of 65 is reached.

Mayor Mouton explained that the ad valorem taxes only cover about 40% of the budget. If the city lowers the tax rate, which has not been done in many years, the city would lose several hundred thousands of dollars in revenue from the industry districts. It is critical to maintain the tax rate because the industry side contributes more than the ad valorem taxes paid by citizens, which is over 60% of the budget. The average constituent contributes only about 40% at most, in comparison of what is being contributed by the industry and the sales tax for the quality of life within the city.

Debbie Cassity spoke against the proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Tax Year 2024 and the frustration she felt after receiving a text from State Representative Brisco Cain. She stated that all the citizens need to know what is going on in the community and be prepared.

Mayor Mouton stated that the city has to stay in compliance with the state of Texas pertaining to tax increases. He emphasized that over 60% of the city budget is contributed outside the ad valorem tax aspect and stated that some verbiage can mislead the community into thinking that the tax payer pays for everything. The city tries its’ best to control expenditures and to provide the best quality services that can be afforded in the community.

Mayor Mouton closed the Public Hearing at 8:18 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Motion was made by Councilman Ginn and seconded by Councilman Haight to approve the consent calendar as follows:

3. Approval of workshop meeting minutes for September 3, 2024.
4. Approval of regular meeting minutes for September 3, 2024.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

5. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RISK POOL (TMLIRP) FOR CYBER INSURANCE COVERAGE – Motion was made by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Ford on an interlocal agreement with Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) for cyber insurance coverage.

Motion passed 7 to 0.

6. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIRS FROM THE CITY OF DEER PARK FOR SPENCERVIEW BRIDGE ACCESS – Motion was made by Councilwoman Garrison and seconded by Councilman Martin on authorization to enter into an interlocal agreement with Harris County Flood Control District for construction, maintenance and

repairs from the City of Deer Park for Spencerview bridge access.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

7. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AMENDING THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY - Finance Director Nicole Ganey spoke on the recommendation to amend Section C - Grant Review and Approval, with the revision that gives the City Manager authority to approve grant applications less than \$25,000, where before all grant applications required City Council's approval.

Motion was made by Councilman League and seconded by Councilman Martin on amending the Financial Management Policy.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

8. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON RENEWING THE AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY VIEW CONSULTING, L.L.C. FOR INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES – Motion was made by Councilman Ginn and seconded by Councilman Haight on renewing the agreement with Valley View Consulting, L.L.C. for investment advisory services.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

9. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON RENEWING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DEER PARK AND R&C BRADLEY, LLC FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) MEDICAL DIRECTOR SERVICES – Motion was made by Councilman League and seconded by Councilwoman Ford on on renewing the contract between the City of Deer Park and R&C Bradley, LLC for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Director services.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

10. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER \$16,500,000.00 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND – After a proposed resolution was read by caption, motion was made by Councilman Ginn and seconded by Councilman Haight to adopt Resolution No. 24-18, captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS TRANSFERRING \$16,500,000.00 OF UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

11. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER \$862,210.00 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE ASSET REPLACEMENT FUND – After a proposed resolution was read by caption, motion was made by Councilwoman Ford and seconded by Councilman League to adopt Resolution No. 24-19, captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS TRANSFERRING \$862,210.00 OF UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND TO THE ASSET REPLACEMENT FUND FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

12. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION MAINTAINING THE CITY OF DEER PARK’S CONTRIBUTION RATE TO THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TMRS) AT THE OBLIGATED 14.65% FOR 2025 AND NOT PREFUNDING THE CITY’S UNFUNDED ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY – After a proposed resolution was read by caption, motion was made by Councilman Ginn and seconded by Councilman League to adopt Resolution No. 24-20, captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK CITY COUNCIL MAINTAINING THE CITY’S 2025 MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION RATE TO THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TMRS) AT 14.65 PERCENT AND NOT PREFUND THE UNFUNDED ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY (UAAL) IN YEAR 2025.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

13. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FY 2024-2025 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF DEER PARK – After a proposed ordinance was read by caption, motion was made by Councilwoman Ford and seconded by Councilman Martin to adopt Ordinance No. 4559, captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024-2025 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED.

Motion carried 7 to 0 with a record vote:

Mayor Mouton	“Aye”
Councilwoman Garrison	“Aye”
Councilman Haight	“Aye”
Councilman Ginn	“Aye”
Councilman League	“Aye”
Councilman Martin	“Aye”
Councilwoman Ford	“Aye”

14. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR TAX YEAR 2024 – After a proposed ordinance was read by caption, Councilwoman Garrison made the following motion “I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.720000, which is effectively a 4.22 percent increase in the tax rate” and was seconded by Councilman Haight to adopt Ordinance No. 4560, captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR 2024 AT \$0.720000 PER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ASSESSED VALUATION OF ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS TO PROVIDE REVENUES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND INTEREST AND SINKING FUND REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING DUE AND DELINQUENT DATES; PENALTIES AND INTEREST; PROVIDING A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried 7 to 0 with a record vote:

Mayor Mouton	“Aye”
Councilwoman Garrison	“Aye”
Councilman Haight	“Aye”
Councilman Ginn	“Aye”
Councilman League	“Aye”
Councilman Martin	“Aye”
Councilwoman Ford	“Aye”

15. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 106-25(B)(C) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO WATER AND SEWER RATES – After a proposed ordinance was read by caption, motion was made by Councilman Ginn and seconded by Councilman League to adopt Ordinance No. 4561, captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF SECTION 106-25 (b)(c) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS, CONCERNING WATER AND SEWER RATES; PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY

Motion carried 7 to 0.

16. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE UPDATED 2024-2025 SALARY & CLASSIFICATION SCALES – After a proposed ordinance was read by caption, motion was made by Councilwoman Ford and seconded by Councilman Ginn to adopt Ordinance No. 4562, captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A RECLASSIFICATION SCALE AND PAY RANGE CHART FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK; PROVIDING A PAY RANGE CHART FOR UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

17. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING FOUR MEMBERS TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES – After a proposed ordinance was read by caption, motion was made by Councilman Ginn and seconded by Councilman Haight to adopt Ordinance No. 4563, captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING FOUR (4) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DEER PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS; FIXING THEIR TERMS; RESERVING CERTAIN RIGHTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL. Patricia Adams, Brenda Spencer, Daniel L. Kramer and Rebecca Schroeder

Motion carried 7 to 0.

ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC  
City Secretary

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Jerry Mouton, Jr.  
Mayor