



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS HELD AT CITY HALL, 710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET, DEER PARK, TEXAS ON MARCH 05, 2024 BEGINNING AT 6:15 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON
SHERRY GARRISON
TJ HAIGHT
TOMMY GINN
BILL PATTERSON
GEORGETTE FORD

MAYOR
COUNCILWOMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILWOMAN

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAMES STOKES
SARA ROBINSON
JIM FOX
ANGELA SMITH

CITY MANAGER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CITY ATTORNEY
CITY SECRETARY

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 6:15 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – No comments received.

1. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE INVESTMENT GRADE AUDIT (IGA) PERFORMED BY PERFORMANCE SERVICES, INC. FOR THE ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) PROJECT – Assistant City Manager Sara Robinson addressed Council regarding the AMI project that is being funded by ARPA money. The city went through a long process of proposals and brought in Performance Services Inc., (PSI) as a part of the proposal to perform an investment grade audit. Once the audit was complete, it was discovered that a handful of accounts had meters located in the backyard of the property. In order to facilitate the completion of the project, each one of those meters must be relocated to the front of the property. A quote for each meter was created separately as part of the audit to replace the lines. Roughly, there are between 150 - 250 meters that have to be relocated at a total price of \$1.5 - \$1.6 million (to not exceed price). A third-party plumbing company hired to work on this project walked every home and are comfortable with their quote. The city has \$8.2 million set aside for the AMI project but anything above and beyond that amount will come from cash reserves. There is an action item later in the meeting to approve the first amendment to the contract with PSI. One option that could have occurred was to ask the residents to pay for the relocation of the lines but this was not truly an option that mayor and staff wanted so the city will use cash reserves to pay for the relocation of the lines.

This is not the infrastructure of the water lines but the lines from the back of the property to the front of the property and is just located in a small older part of town (east & west of center street), per Public Works Engineering Inspector George Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez explained that the water line is routed from the easement at the rear of the property and needs to be moved to the front of property now and re-pipe from where the service line enters the home and will bore under concrete. It will be a case-by-case basis on all of them. Just a note, it is not the main water line but the connections of the water meters that are moving from back to front.

Ms. Robinson commented that this is something that always needed to be addressed and eventually would have been addressed, we are just taking advantage of the water meter project to complete it.

Greg Smith with Performance Services Inc (PSI) added that the plan is to have all the needed concrete work completed at the same time the meters are installed to avoid prolonger, if any, disruptions to the home owners. He also mentioned that the supply of 7,000 out of 12,000 meters are on site and ready to be installed. It was mentioned that the replacement project will start in the northeast part of Deer Park toward the end of this month.

2. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET CALENDAR – Assistant City Manager Sara Robinson advised Council of the calendar that includes budget related workshops, meetings and hearings for the City staff, City Council, the CCPD Board, the FCPEMSD Board, and the Deer Park Community Development Corporation Board. (A1). The June 24th workshop is the only special called meeting.
3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FIRST QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 – Finance Director Nicole Gainey gave a summary of the preliminary and unaudited results for the fiscal year October 2023 - December 2023. Ms. Gainey mentioned that the sales tax is consistent with last year with the expectation of a flat sales tax potential for this year.
4. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATED TO POTENTIAL SIGNAGE ON OUTFIELD FENCES AT CITY FACILITIES – City Manager Stokes gave an overview of the large number of requests to advertise at City facilities. The requests come mainly from businesses that would like to hang banners on the fences of athletic complexes. The city has never allowed such advertising except for signs and banners of the sports organization sponsorship partners. Mr. Stokes spoke of the suggestion to discuss a solution that may benefit the city pertaining to potential revenue but also the down side of not being in control to regulate the verbiage or subjects on the signs/banners.

Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Sandberg asked for guidance within a policy to be able to follow and implement.

City Attorney Jim Fox added that from a legal standpoint, the city should not and could not impose any restrictions on the “freedom of speech” of any advertisement. Mr. Fox expressed his concerns of the legalities the city will have to adhere pertaining to the content of the signs/banners.

After a lengthy discussion, the City Council agreed that if the city allows banners/signage from businesses, it may bring more problems than benefits to the city.

5. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE LEASE AND ACQUISITION OF GOLF CARTS FOR THE BATTLEGROUND GOLF COURSE – Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Sandberg spoke of the current discussions to renew the lease and trade out the current fleet of golf carts for updated models. Quotes have been obtained a new lease for 48-months for 80 lithium battery EzGo Golf carts.. The total annual cost of the golf carts is estimated at \$135,916.80.

6. DISCUSSION OF PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF STATIONARY FLOCK SAFETY LICENSE PLATE READER CAMERAS – Assistant Chief of Police Frank Hart gave an overview of the free access to the Flock camera system given to the Police Department about a year ago while waiting on the completion of the new EOC/Dispatch Center. On February 1, 2024, it was confirmed that the free access will expire April 1, 2024. Flock access has been a very valuable tool for officers. It has been requested to purchase and install the camera system from the CCPD funds in the amount of \$29,200.

ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton, Jr.
Mayor