

CITY OF DEER PARK

710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET

DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536

Minutes of

THE 1694th 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 5, 2017, AT 7:30 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON
SHERRY GARRISON
THANE HARRISON
TOMMY GINN
BILL PATTERSON
RAE A. SINOR

MAYOR
COUNCILWOMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILWOMAN

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

GARY JACKSON
SHANNON BENNETT
JIM FOX

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CITY SECRETARY
CITY ATTORNEY

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. INVOCATION – The invocation was given by Councilman Patterson.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Councilman Sinor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.
4. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY ADOPTING STANDARDS OF CARE FOR THE ALL STAR ACTIVITY PROGRAM - The public hearing was opened by the City Secretary reading the Notice of Public Hearing. (Exhibit A)

Mayor Mouton called for those desiring to speak in favor of the Standards of Care for the All Star Activity Program. No one spoke.

Mayor Mouton called for those desiring to speak against the All Star Activity Program. No one spoke.

Mayor Mouton closed the hearing.

5. AWARDING BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAXWELL ADULT CENTER EXPANSION – Motion was made by Councilwoman Garrison and seconded by Councilman Patterson to award the bid to Frost Construction Company in the amount of \$1,551,000 and add an alternative No. 1 bid of \$11,0000 for the construction of the Maxwell Center Expansion.

Motion carried 6 to 0.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR - Motion was made by Councilman Harrison and seconded by Councilman Ginn to approve the consent calendar as follows:
- a. Approval of minutes of Joint meeting with Council and Crime Control Prevention District on August 15, 2017.
 - b. Approval of minutes of workshop meeting on August 15, 2017.
 - c. Approval of minutes of regular meeting on August 15, 2017.
 - d. Authorization to advertise and receive bids for South Plant Lift Station Discharge Header Replacement Project.

Motion carried 6 to 0.

7. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON APPLYING FOR AND ACCEPTING A GRANT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION TO PURCHASE RIFLE-RESISTANT BODY ARMOR – Motion was made by Councilwoman Sinor and seconded by Councilman Patterson to apply and accept a grant through the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division to purchase rifle-resistant body armor. Motion carried 5 to 0.
8. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON A SUBMITTAL OF THE 2017 TAX ROLL AND THE CALCULATION OF THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE AND THE ROLLBACK TAX RATE – Motion was made by Councilman Harrison and seconded by Councilman Patterson on a submittal of the 2017 tax roll and the calculation of the effective tax rate and the rollback tax rate. Motion carried 5 to 0.
9. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON TO INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL BY PROPOSING TO ADOPT A TAX RATE OF \$0.720000 PER \$100 VALUATION AT A FUTURE MEETING– Motion was made by Councilman Harrison and seconded by Councilman Patterson to adopt the tax rate of \$0.72 per \$100 of valuation. Motion carried 6 to 0 with a roll call vote:

Councilwoman Garrison “Aye”
Councilman Harrison “Aye”
Councilman Ginn “Aye”
Councilman Patterson “Aye”
Councilwoman Sinor “Aye”
Mayor Mouton “Aye”

10. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE CALLING TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED 2017 TAX RATE – After a proposed ordinance was read by caption, motion was made by Councilman Harrison and seconded by Councilman Ginn to adopt on first and final reading Ordinance No. 3920, captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK SETTING DATES AND TIMES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion carried 6 to 0.

11. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE STANDARDS OF CARE FOR THE ALL STAR ACTIVITY PROGRAM FOR 2017-18 DEER PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR - Motion was made by Councilwoman Garrison and seconded by Councilman Patterson to table this item. Motion carried 6 to 0.

12. CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE MAYOR’S EMERGENCY DISASTER DECLARATION OF AUGUST 5, 2017 AND EXTENDING THE DISASTER FOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY – After a proposed ordinance was read by caption, motion was made by Councilman Tommy Ginn and seconded by Councilwoman Garrison to adopt on first and final reading of Ordinance No. 3921, captioned as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK, TEXAS RATIFYING THE DECLARATION OF DISASTER DATED AUGUST 25, 2017 FOR HURRICANE HARVEY AND EXTENDING THE DISASTER PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2, 2017 EMERGENCY DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion carried 6 to 0.

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilwoman Garrison commented, “I just want to thank the City, particularly our First Responders, Public Works and Sanitation for what they have done. There has been some very good feedback. The operation of the shelter that we had for a few days was a very good thing for all of us. To see people that have lost everything, it has been an up and down week for all of us.”

Councilman Harrison commented, “It has been an up and down week for each one of us. We all had our own things that were going on. We also had to be involved in what we were doing in setting up the shelter, greeting the people, setting up the cots and feeding the people. That was quite an experience. Helping people pull carpet out of their houses, helping churches pull carpet out and mine was one of them. We had to gut the whole downstairs. It’s just incredible the amount of the help that is coming from all over the country, just not here locally. People are coming down and giving away supplies. No matter what color anybody is, what religion they are, makes no difference. Everyone is banding together to help and that is what is so good about this, that’s why we have the good Lord.”

Councilman Ginn commented, “We have never seen anything like it before and I hope to not ever see it again. I want to thank all the City employees and all of the volunteers. We were overwhelmed with volunteers and supplies, everybody pitched in and I think it is awesome. We also had help from all over and now we are going out helping others. We are so blessed as a City to come out of this storm the way we did. Even the people I spoke to that got water in their homes, were grateful it was not worse than what it was. Some people got two inches to two feet, even those people were grateful of what the City has done. I am very grateful to all of the City employees and the volunteers. Thank you all.”

Councilman Patterson commented, “I am just humbled and blessed to live in this community. I am appreciative to our City staff and all of the administration and also previous City Managers of this City that have stayed for the task of just helping us make our city what it is today. My heart goes out to all those still flooded and enduring all this pain. We face another storm coming on the shores of the United States and you realize just how helpless you are. There is no amount of money or intelligence that is going to turn that storm. I just pray that we all stay close to God and stay healthy and safe. I think our City is really blessed and I am so blessed to live here. Thank you.”

Councilwoman Sinor, “Just to reiterate thanks to the Mayor’s leadership and being the conduit that he and Jay played with all the details as well as Robert Hemminger and Chief Grigg were always there. I always felt at peace just seeing you guys working it all together. I just felt like you were on top of everything and knew what was going on. You were up late nights and early mornings out checking the roads while some of us were in our beds and I appreciate you guys staying the course. It was Wednesday night, when we took some of the people from the shelter and both pastors came together and talked, stood up and prayed over them and I thought that was so moving to witness. They talked about how we have been so divided as a nation and all that is going on in our county. I think Christians have prayed for a revival for a long time and maybe this is our revival, people coming together to help. What is scary is everybody working hard and there is so much to do. Those people are going to get tired and they are going to need a break and other people are going to have to step up to give them a break. This is going to take so long to help people through this. We can’t quit pushing or quit working and can’t quit lending our hand for the people that need our help. I have just been in awe watching at all the different churches. I said at dinner, can you imagine having to wait for the government to come and feed the people, they would have already starved to death by now. Communities, volunteers and churches have taken up the charge and the lead. I have watched our church, Central Church and San Jacinto Church here, First Baptist of Pasadena, First Baptist of Deer Park and Church of Christ have all come on board and it is going to take that.

People are going to have to go to work and start taking the business up of the church and other people are going to have to stand up. I just hope we are all a part of that. Again, I have watched pastors in churches reach out to other communities. We were off unloading trucks from North Carolina at our church yesterday, just amazing. God provides. He is mighty and powerful and He is wonderful. I don't always understand how He works but I am so glad He does."

Mayor Mouton commented, "I appreciate the Council. I think tremendous leadership was provided by each of you. Everywhere I turned, one of you was typically there, not scared to get your hands dirty. In the evening we were shutting down the shelter and the few people that were left were being transported to NRG, there was one gentlemen that was there and started telling me how impressed he was with Deer Park. Something he said that stuck out to me was how impressed he was to know that each of the Councilmembers were there working just as hard as anybody. It was a challenging week. It was difficult to ask for resources from the County and State knowing that they had their hands full. I spent quite a bit of time on the phone in the last ten days talking to our neighboring Mayors. I appreciate Councilman Terry Sain, from Baytown for being here. I know Baytown has had their hands full. Proud to say, we have been sending resources and teams from some of our churches to help. We had employees working to help our City while some of their own homes flooded. We are blessed. I have spent a lot of quality time with members of our EOC and with Mr. Stokes, I was so impressed. Every Department was doing their job to perfection, working to make sure our City was taken care of. I am in awe and I am proud of all of you and our City Staff. I am proud of this community to see the goodwill coming forth with neighbors helping neighbors. The day we opened the shelter, Channel 13 showed up right after the decision was made and aired it. Several people that know me said I looked like an angry Mayor so I had to reminisce. One of the first questions he asked me was why were we doing this? It did strike me odd. Why would he ask that question? I said this is Texas, we help our neighbors when they are in need! Not one person from Deer Park will be in this shelter, but we opened it up to aid our neighboring cities. When the people showed up, they had not been fed. The call was put out for supplies and resources and in a short amount of time, the community churches showed up with food. We had to start telling the community to quit bringing food, there was too much. By the time the County and the State asked us what we needed, I was able to say we are taking care of it ourselves. I was able to tell them to redirect the resources to Baytown that had five churches that had shelters with excess of six to seven hundred people. I am just humbled and blessed and honored to work with each one of you. It's an honor to see Staff perform their jobs flawlessly. Nonetheless, I am very proud and thank you to all to what you have done these last few days. I think the time for leadership is going to be over the next few months. We are all going to have to step to the plate. I know all of you will. Let's move forward."

14. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Shannon Bennett, TRMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton
Mayor