



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 APRIL 16, 2024 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MAYOR
COUNCILWOMAN
COUNCILMAN
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 6:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – No comments received.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL (551.074) - DISCUSSION ON NAMING AN APPOINTEE TO THE DEER PARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC) BOARD – Mayor Mouton recessed the workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m. for an Executive Session.
2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL (551.074) - DISCUSSION ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR – Mayor Mouton recessed the workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m. for an Executive Session.

RECONVENED – Mayor Mouton reconvened the workshop meeting at 6:33 p.m.

3. PRESENTATION BY CENIKOR DEER PARK – Cenikor was not present at the meeting.
4. PRESENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE HOUSTON PORT REGION ANNUAL REPORT – President/CEO of the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region Chad Burke gave the annual report on the activities of the past year that included details of the 24 projects within the Project Pipeline 2024, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that provides federal funding. (Exhibit A1-A7)

5. PRESENTATION ON THE THEATRE NETWORK OF TEXAS SUMMER SHOW, UPCOMING PERFORMANCE, AND PARTICIPANT AWARDS – Theater Supervisor Susan Mele gave an overview of the Art Park Players preparation in hosting the Theatre Network of Texas Youth Fest for the second consecutive year. The city will welcome over 400 participants from around the state to participate in this annual theatre event. The event will take place at Deer Park ISD’s Gaines Mason Auditorium from June 4th – 9th, 2024. The Art Park Players will also present the southeastern premiere of Trails: A New American Musical, directed by David Eck with cast members that features Taylor Fisher, Aaron Gonzalez, Emmy Carys, Jeanmarie Eck, Matt Peña, and Molly Saenz. Brandon R Tanner serves as the musical director with orchestrations by Aaron Jodoin and technical direction by Joe Piper.

Ms. Mele also recognized the award winners from the Theater Network of Texas TexFest Award Ceremony: Star Award - Bob and Rose Nichol, Front of the House Award - Mary Parrot, Backstage Award - Christina Riggs, Onstage Award- JeanMarie Eck, Spotlight Award - Keith Hermann (Kemah Boardwalk Landry’s) and Steadfast Support Award - Dr. Jerry Ivins (San Jacinto College).

6. RECOGNITION OF BILL PEDERSEN AS RETIRING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – City Manager James Stokes spoke and recognized Public Works Director Bill Pedersen for his 15 years of dedication to the city. Mr. Stokes emphasized that a lot of good things were done during those 15 years and credited Mr. Pedersen for his involvement in that. Councilmembers thanked Mr. Pedersen and wished him success in his future endeavors.

Mr. Pedersen thanked the Council and spoke of his future plans of spending time with his grandkids and traveling.

7. PRESENTATION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF THE ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) PROJECT – Performance Services Inc. Project Manager George Melancon gave an update on the AMI Project. There have been 382 meters installed along with the installation of antennas on three out of 4 storage tanks. Mr. Melancon stated that 60-80 meters are done per day and estimates that all meters will be installed within 9-10 months. Service line relocations door hangars are to be delivered in late May with a 5-6 month duration to complete the jobs. Every new install will receive a door hangar and a representative knocking on those doors to answer any questions.

8. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE 2024 STRATEGIC PLAN – Assistant City Manager Sara Robinson stated that staff is seeking clarification on the specific key focus areas of the 2024 Strategic Plan.

City Manager James Stokes spoke on the key focus area of Leadership/Governance and suggested on establishing a “legislative advocacy program” with Council’s approval and guidance. Mr. Stokes recommended to Council that being more active with Texas Municipal League and to improve communication and connectivity with the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Alliance could help improve in that area. Mr. Stokes also spoke of building coalitions with the industrial industry and other cities as well. Mayor Mouton advised the Council that the staff is in need of guidance of what Council would like to see moving forward.

RECESS/RECONVENED – Mayor Mouton recessed the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened the workshop meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Economic Alliance Representative Chad Burke spoke of the public policy committee meeting the Economic Alliance holds monthly pertaining to municipality issues that can be used as a tool to help with a potential legislative advocacy program. After a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed to direct staff to create a committee in order to establish a “legislative advocacy program”.

Ms. Robinson spoke of the goal to improve the public engagement in communication to curb misinformation. Ms. Robinson expressed that staff is seeking clarity from Council on what direction to take to establish a “citywide public information announcement system” in order to improve in the focus area of Leadership/Governance. After a discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to only continue monitoring the information being sent out to the public and not needing to develop a citywide public information announcement system as a goal for the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Stokes moved on to the next key focus of Economic Development and asked for clarity on what the intent of a “community engagement program” for the Jimmy Burke Activity Center facility meant. Council clarified that a “community engagement program” was not necessary in the marketing process of the new JBAC and would not need to be included in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Robinson spoke on the key focus area of Organizational Excellence and what direction Council would like to take pertaining to identify options for adding volunteers.

Councilman Martin explained that the idea was aimed on finding options to help encourage the volunteer participation for committees and he and other Councilmembers feel that the Marketing Department can best provide support for recruitment. Council agreed to keep this as a goal for the Strategic Plan.

ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton, Jr.
Mayor