

710 EAST SAN AUGUSTINE STREET

DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536

Minutes

of

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 DECEMBER 3, 2019, BEGINNING AT 5:45 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON, JR.
SHERRY GARRISON
TJ HAIGHT
TOMMY GINN
BILL PATTERSON
RON MARTIN
RAE SINOR

MAYOR
COUNCILWOMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILWOMAN

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAMES STOKES
GARY JACKSON
SHANNON BENNETT
JIM FOX

CITY MANAGER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CITY SECRETARY
CITY ATTORNEY

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 6:15 p.m.
2. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – John Matula, 801 Lanell Street, commented, “Please consider tonight of substantially increasing the fine for keeping the noisy animal violation that is a \$69 fine. I had to abandon my home for a period of time due to chronic barking next door. Please consider increasing that fine. Thank you for your commitment for improving the quality of life.”
3. EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL LITIGATION – Mayor Mouton recessed the workshop meeting at 5:45 p.m. for an Executive Session.
4. RECONVENED – Mayor Mouton reconvened the workshop meeting at 6:44 p.m.
5. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY – Human Resources Director Bill Philibert began the discussion by emphasizing that current employees will not be negatively impacted by these changes. Mr. Philibert advised Council of the proposed changes that will clarify existing policy language, establish retiree health options for mid-career Staff

and to assist in preparation of newly mandated Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability reporting. Mr. Philibert discussed the surveys from over 50 Texas cities, which half of the cities use “access only” which allows future retirees to have access to the cities plans, but no subsidies from the cities.

Councilwoman Garrison asked, “Is this like having another insurance that feeds into when they are eligible for Medicare? Like a supplement?”

Mr. Philibert responded, “Yes.”

Mr. Philibert continued the discussion on the focus of being consistent and in alignment with the local Government Code statute that mandates that any retiree from a city with a population of more than 30,000 have access to any retiree insurance program that the City has. The cost has not yet been determined but it has been estimated to range between \$0-\$34,000 a year. These proposed changes to the existing conditions of the policy are to be on a future agenda to include an addition to the policy that pertains to eligibility for subsidies from the City with 10-19 years of experience and 60 years of age.

Councilwoman Garrison asked, “Is there still an Employee Committee that talks about the benefits and if so, was this discussed with them?”

City Manager James Stokes responded, “No, we have not.”

6. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE UPDATE OF THE DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS SECTIONS OF THE PERSONNEL MANUAL – Human Resources Director Bill Philibert gave an overview of the update to the employees appeals section and arbitration clause due to the Charter Election. The update includes an internal process involving any appeal to be heard by the City Manager and then having the City Managers decision be final and binding. A listing of what is appealable (suspensions, demotions and dismissals) has been added to the Employees Appeals Policy.
7. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO S.B. 346, WHICH PERTAINS TO CHANGES OF CRIMINAL COURT COSTS AND OTHER COURT-RELATED COSTS, FINES, AND FEES – Finance Director Donna Todd gave an overview of changes to the criminal court costs and fees that will affect the City by replacing ordinances that are now State leveled requirements to include consolidation of fees that will change the structure of what the City reports to the State. Ms. Todd introduced Court Administrator Michelle Combs who advised Council of the increased fee that will be implemented by the State, in the amount of \$30 for every moving violation and \$10 for every non-moving violation.

Councilman Patterson asked, “What is the State going to do with the money?”

City Attorney Jim Fox responded, “They are going to use it for emergency medical care services for the hospitals in lieu of the surcharges on the driver’s licenses for indigent health care.”

Councilwoman Garrison asked, "Are moving violations a large percentage of our fines?"

Ms. Combs responded, "Yes."

8. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE SPORTS ORGANIZATION UTILIZATION AGREEMENTS – Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Sandberg gave an overview of the proposed changes and the process that is going to be put in place and advised Council of the timeline for the recommendation and final approval processes for the proposed changes amongst the Leagues, Park and Recreation Committee and the City Council. Mr. Sandberg discussed the extension of the current agreement that will go through the end of January 2020 and also detailed the background history of sports agreements from 2009 to present. Key elements for future agreements were discussed to include the meaning of being a "recognized organization", the required documentation to comply with the agreement and the process for the approval. Staff has recommended change to the sports specific agreements primarily to defer the responsibility for the maintenance of mowing the fields to the organizations. This would mean maintenance of the field "inside the fence" during the season of the specific sport.

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jacob Zuniga commented, "For several years, the City has been maintaining the fields on a regular basis. We would try and mow the fields twice a week. If the Leagues wanted additional mowing, for example, the City mowed the field on Monday and Thursday, but the League had a tournament on Saturday and wanted additional mowing for the infields or the soccer fields, they would come out and mow the fields themselves. This would actually have the Leagues mowing just the plain surface areas routinely throughout the week, so if they want to mow every day, they could do that without having to schedule around the City."

Councilwoman Sinor asked, "Are we not worried about damages?"

Mr. Sandberg responded, "Yes, we are. There would be a check and balance, if we go this route, on how the fields should be maintained at a certain level. There will be some regulations included as to how the fields need to be kept up."

Councilman Patterson asked, "Who maintains the general conditions of the stands, fences and nets?"

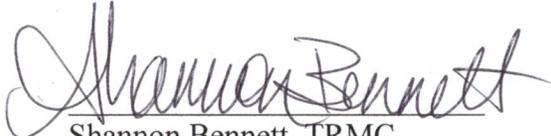
Mr. Sandberg responded, "We maintain that and are responsible for that."

Mr. Sandberg continued the discussion that included details of the proposed change to give the Leagues full responsibility of the concession stand and the inspections that pertain to the concession stand, the guidelines being added for 3rd party usage and the proposed change of no "in-lieu of" payment if the Leagues would take over the maintenance of the fields. Mr. Sandberg also discussed the process of finding a liaison to attend Board meetings for the Leagues and the ability to receive Board meeting minutes, the request for public usage of the fields from the Leagues.

9. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Shannon Bennett, TRMC
City Secretary



Jerry Mouton, Jr.
Mayor