



## 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 SEPTEMBER 02, 2025 BEGINNING AT 6:45 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON  
SHERRY GARRISON  
TJ HAIGHT  
TOMMY GINN  
RON MARTIN  
JUSTIN LEAGUE

MAYOR  
COUNCILWOMAN  
COUNCILMAN  
COUNCILMAN  
COUNCILMAN  
COUNCILMAN

### OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAMES STOKES  
SARA ROBINSON  
JIM FOX  
ANGELA SMITH

CITY MANAGER  
ASST. CITY MANAGER  
CITY ATTORNEY  
CITY SECRETARY

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 6:45 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – No comments received.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL (551.074) – DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTER RELATED TO THE NOMINATION OF A PERSON TO THE JOIN THE TEXAS HEALTH BENEFITS POOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Mayor Mouton recessed the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:55 p.m.
2. PRESENTATION OF ADAPTIVE PROGRAMMING EFFORTS FROM THE DEER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Parks and Recreation Director Kenny Walsh gave an overview of the future recreational programs in the new DAC facility that include adaptive and inclusivity programs for those individuals with disabilities. Mr. Walsh acknowledged certified ADA Coordinator Kristin Villalovos and spoke of her efforts that provided input pertaining to the development and enhancement of various programs to make them more inclusive for all individuals to participate. The programs include sensory-friendly hour designed for individuals with sensory sensitivities, egg-cessible egg hunt, sensory art classes, adaptive fun day, inclusive bike rodeo and adaptive exercise classes. There is also a “Rec for All Program” that includes weekly activities, monthly activities and one-time a year events. Mr. Walsh mentioned that Oxy Chemical has donated \$15,000 which will be divided for programs in the fall (\$7500) and spring (\$7500). There are other future events such as the Inclusive Groove Gala to take place September 13, 2025, adaptive water aerobics and the

Merry and Bright Christmas party. Mr. Walsh continued by explaining that the goal of the adaptive programming efforts is to ensure the parks and facilities are designed to be accessible, inclusive and universal to allow individuals that have different needs enjoy those amenities. Next year, there are plans to get IBCCES certification as an Autism center for each of the locations at the DAC, Maxwell Adult Center, Theater Arts Building, Dow Park and Dow Park pool.

3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATED TO ASSESSING A PROCESSING FEE FOR CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS – City Manager James Stokes began by stating that this was a follow up to the discussion pertaining to credit card transaction fees. Mr. Stokes emphasized that this only involves credit card fees and reiterated that there are no fees for using debit cards, checks or cash.

Finance Director Nicole Ganey provided a brief recap of the prior discussion pertaining to implementing a 2.5% processing fee for credit card transactions taken in the Central Collections (excluding tax payments), Public Works Department, Police Department, and EMS Department. The city currently absorbs all processing fees with the exception of Municipal Court. In Q3, this resulted in \$60,706 in processing fees and \$21,688 in Insite fees. To have recovered the cost of processing fees alone, a 2.5% fee would have been necessary. Currently, processing fees are charged at a rate of 0.43% with an additional \$0.43 for bank and card brand fees. Online utility payments are also charged \$1.25 per transaction. Ms. Ganey emphasized that there has been a 50% increase of processing fees from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2025. The city assessing a fee would be a more equitable solution to recover these costs. The processing fee will only apply to Central Collection (excluding tax payments), Public Works, the Police Department and EMS Department and will not affect any Parks and Recreational programs or facilities. Should City Council agree to implementing the 2.5% processing fee, staff will send communications out in the water bills, on the City's website and customer payment portal to notify the customers of this change and also give information on options available to utilize in order to not incur a processing fee. A suggested start date would be December of 2025.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and City Council to move forward with assessing a processing fee for credit card transactions.

ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC  
City Secretary

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Jerry Mouton, Jr.  
Mayor