



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 NOVEMBER 19, 2024 BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON	MAYOR
SHERRY GARRISON	COUNCILWOMAN
TJ HAIGHT	COUNCILMAN
TOMMY GINN	COUNCILMAN
JUSTIN LEAGUE	COUNCILMAN
RON MARTIN	COUNCILMAN
GEORGETTE FORD	COUNCILWOMAN

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAMES STOKES	CITY MANAGER
SARA COSTLOW	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
JIM FOX	CITY ATTORNEY
ANGELA SMITH	CITY SECRETARY

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – No comments received.

1. RECOGNITION OF VARIOUS CITY EMPLOYEES AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
– City Manager James Stokes began by recognizing Assistant City Manager Sara Costlow on her being newly elected as TML Region 6 President.

EMS Assistant Chief Andrew Smith recognized Austin Billbrey for his accomplishment of getting his Bachelor's degree and being awarded Paramedic of the year by American Legion Post 319.

Finance Director Nicole Ganey spoke on receiving the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for 37 years in a row from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Information Technology Director James Lewis recognized Information Security Officer John Stein for receiving his CYSA certification that took 3 years to achieve.

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Jacob Zuniga recognized Building Maintenance Supervisor Dawn Crenshaw and her staff and allowed Ms. Crenshaw to speak of the staff's

achievement. Ms. Crenshaw spoke of encouraging her staff to get certified with ISSA, a worldwide cleaning organization. Ms. Crenshaw along with her staff have achieved receiving that certification.

City Manager James Stokes recognize Randy Harrison as the Crossing Guard of the Year awarded by the American Legion Post 319. Mr. Harrison has been a crossing guard for the City of Deer Park for 13 years.

Police Chief Grigg recognized Joel Nitchman as the Police Officer of the Year awarded by the American Legion Post 319. Officer Brooks Schwausch and Officer James Hartley were also recognized along with Officer Joel Nitchman by Houston Chapter MADD for arresting 95 drunk drivers.

Public Works Director David Van Riper spoke of the awards received from the Texas Water Association (TWA) that was given to Water Operator David Ortiz for Community Service and Water Operator Jarrot Johnston for Outstanding New Professional Award.

Fire Chief Phillip Arroyo recognized Volunteer Firefighter Lieutenant Armando Diaz who was awarded the Firefighter of the Year Award by the American Legion Post 319. Public Works Director David Van Riper also praised Mr. Diaz for being an outstanding Public Works Supervisor and handling the Volunteer Firefighting responsibilities as well.

2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FOURTH QUARTER AND FISCAL YEAR-END INVESTMENT REPORT AND PORTFOLIO UPDATE BY VALLEY VIEW CONSULTING, LLC. – Valley View Consultant Emily Upshaw gave an overview of the final annual numbers pertaining to the quarterly investment report. This report included the comparison from the prior year and detailed the 3M dollar increase in the 2024 Interest Earnings due to the high rates. Ms. Upshaw stated that the Finance Department efficiently kept the investment ladder going to keep the interest earnings for the portfolio. There have been 15M dollars that have matured and 8M dollars invested during the fourth quarter. (A1-A8)
3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FOURTH QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 – Finance Director Nicole Ganey discussed the year-to-date fiscal activities that include preliminary numbers that will change as the year comes to a close. Ms. Ganey explained that 114% of the General Funds budgeted revenue has been collected, 250% of the total budgeted investment revenue in 2024 has been received and mentioned the expenditures are trending to remain under budget. (Exhibit B1-B7)
4. PRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK'S UPCOMING TREE LIGHTING SPECTACULAR AT PATRICK'S CABIN CHRISTMAS TOWN – Theater Supervisor Susan Mele discussed the tree lighting on Thursday, November 21, 2024. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. with many festivities planned including touring of Patrick's Cabin, decorating Christmas ornaments, writing and mailing a letter to Santa and petting animals at a live Nativity scene along with many other activities. Ms. Mele explained that the event is free but will have many vendor/ concessions stands. The event is supported by 250 volunteers from the City of Deer Park Parks and Recreation Department, Art Park Players, Deer Park Historical Committee and the Deer Park Tourism Division.

Public Relations and Marketing Administrator Kaitlyn Bluejacket spoke of the new character “Tex” the reindeer and thanked the different departments and individuals who helped market the new character by stuffing envelopes that went out to all the residents of Deer Park. Ms. Bluejacket stated that over 200 plush “Tex” the reindeer and story books have been sold.

Library Director Rebecca Pool spoke about the Special Edition “Tex” library card fundraising activity the Deer Park Library will be hosting at the upcoming Tree Lighting Spectacular at Patrick’s Cabin. There will also be three (3) story telling times at 6:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. readings from the book telling the story of “Tex” the reindeer read by Hoot the Reader.

Assistant City Manager Sara Costlow thanked all who worked and volunteered for the tree lighting event.

5. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO AMENDING SECTIONS 66-77 AND 66-80 OF THE CITY OF DEER PARK’S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGULATING PARKING IN THE CITY OF DEER PARK– Deer Park Police Chief Grigg spoke on the definition of a commercial vehicle that indicates a truck tractor, road tractor, semi-trailer, bus, pole-truck, truck or trailer or any vehicle in combination with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 26,000 pounds or is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, or any motor vehicle over 25’ in length. Chief Grigg also spoke on the exceptions of the ordinance that states the ordinance does not apply to a driver of any truck tractor, semitrailer or the combination of both making a pickup or delivery or rendering some requested service at a location which the vehicle is stopped or parked.

ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton, Jr.
Mayor