

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 JULY 17, 2018, BEGINNING AT 6:45 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JERRY MOUTON	MAYOR
SHERRY GARRISON	COUNCILWOMAN
TOMMY GINN	COUNCILMAN
THANE HARRISON	COUNCILMAN
BILL PATTERSON	COUNCILMAN
RON MARTIN	COUNCILMAN
RAE SINOR	COUNCILWOMAN

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

JAY STOKES	CITY MANAGER
GARY JACKSON	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
SHANNON BENNETT	CITY SECRETARY
JIM FOX	CITY ATTORNEY

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 6:45 p.m.
2. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE ANNUAL PRESENTATION-HOUSTON PORT REGION – Chad Burke, President of the Economic Alliance, gave an overview of the annual report of the Economic Alliance and highlighted the Mission, who is representing (12 cities), the Impact of Houston Port Region (Economic Development Projects), Public Policy (Transportation Taskforce), Workforce Development, Transportation, Quality of Life and Member Development. (Exhibits A1-A7)

Mayor Mouton commented “Talking about the Beltway 8 Bridge and the expansion, there was not any funding for the connectors to Highway 225. This Committee took this subject all the way up to Austin in getting transportation funding down here. Now, we have a focal point where it used to be only a traffic count, which we would always lose out on to a higher criteria of freight movement. It is now a different conversation in Austin and how funding is allocated. I would give a lot of credit to this Committee and being able to shape that conversation.”

Mr. Burke commented, “It has been the most impressive thing that I have seen in the ten years I have been there. The Committee is co-chaired by the cities and industries.”

Public Relations/Marketing Specialist, Kristin Callahan commented, “One of the biggest focuses we have this year is the Mini Mural Matching Grant Program, which is made possible through funding from the San Jacinto Texas Historic District. The Mini Mural project is just one of the things our task force is focused on right now.”

Mr. Burke commented, “Thank you again to Deer Park. You are very active in everything we do and one of our leading cities. We appreciate your membership.”

3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO ICE CREAM TRUCKS – Jay Stokes, City Manager, began with discussing the inquiry of having ice cream trucks within the City and the ordinance pertaining to prohibiting them. The ordinance was approved many years ago which states that it is not allowed to project music while selling products. At that time there were other concerns from the Police Department of activities that could be dangerous and concerns due to shift workers sleeping during the day. Mr. Stokes gave detail examples of the connection this same ordinance has that prohibits some actions within the City and other rules the ordinance enforces currently.

City Attorney, Jim Fox commented, “Whatever is done, there may be some unintended consequences to allow other things that we do not want to do because we are pretty prohibited on all of it right now. We may be able to craft it to pre-package food, but that will allow some other than things to be sold than ice cream. We can certainly make an attempt to do whatever the Council decides to do.”

Mayor Mouton commented, “At this point, we need to open it to Council to give Staff some direction.”

Councilman Patterson commented, “I do not see a need for an ice cream truck.”

Councilwoman Sinor commented, “I was the Councilmember that brought this up. It seems every summer I will have one or two constituents ask me about it and the bandwagon starts. I have brought this up before, but it has never come this far along, so I appreciate Staff for taking the time to address it. We had a preliminary meeting. I met with the group a couple of weeks ago. What was talked about was one of the concerns of the noise. I grew up and my kids grew up with ice cream trucks. I think there are so many things that we have taken away and don’t do anymore, just the sweet fun things of summer. I don’t know why it can’t just be clearly stated as an ice cream truck. We also talked about making sure they came in and filled out an application and doing background checks on them to know who they are. I am sure there is more to it than what it appears, but I don’t think it should be so difficult.”

Councilwoman Garrison commented, “I think the times have changed. You have to consider carrying a huge liability insurance. Not only that, most of these ice cream trucks are privately owned and you would have to have background checks on all of the workers and that would give extra work for some departments in the City. I think it is mostly a safety issue. If one child gets hurt, that is all it takes. I did look this up, some cities have opened this back up. Many cities have said no, they have one child injured or killed. That is all it takes. Even though parents tell their children not to run in the street, when they get excited about an ice cream or anything coming down the street, they are

going to run in the street. From that perspective, I honestly, don't want to see this happen. I believe what we have in the City is good now. I think it opens up other areas like food trucks. How do we say yes to that and no to other things. Then we will be spending all our time deciding what we are going to allow and not allow. Once we open this door, it is going to create a lot of problems."

Councilman Ginn commented, "Basically, that is the same thing that I have been hearing. This will open up the door to things. Some people mention the shift workers and they don't want the noise. I think the liability issue is the largest thing."

Councilman Martin commented, "I get it, I have heard it before. I remember the days of hearing the music and getting excited. I agree with Councilwoman Garrison though, times have changed. That is not to say kids will do as we say and not run in the street. There is one company, Snowy, that some of the schools and daycares invite to come out and that seems to work when they come to private properties. Tropical Chill is always crowded, and it talks to what is being requested. To me it still is a safety issue. Even if we do background checks with the companies, these companies hire different people and I do not know how we will control the various people that work the trucks on specific days and streets. I am not sure if this is the right thing to do."

Councilwoman Sinor commented, "Every year I'm asked, so it's a good thing to bring up."

Councilman Harrison commented, "I haven't heard all the comments, but when I read this, I thought back when I was a child. The fact of the matter is, if we do open this door, it is the beginning of "what else". I do not like opening that door. This town has come so far and is so fine to live in and we don't have ice cream trucks. There are all sorts of safety reasons and other things that Councilwoman Garrison brought up and I agree with her."

Councilwoman Sinor commented, "Thank you all for your time and effort."

After discussion, the consensus of Council was to not allow ice cream trucks.

4. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR MONROE PARK, BIG BEND PARK AND PARKVIEW PARK – Parks and Recreation

Director, Charlie Sandberg gave an overview of this year's budget purchase and installation of playground equipment at the Adult Softball Complex, and Glendale Park at the Spencerview Athletic Complex. Glendale Park is a new park which will not be completed during this fiscal year. Staff recommends to have that new playground equipment installed at Parkside Park, Monroe Park and Big Bend Park, instead due to the fact that the equipment slated for the Adult Softball Complex does not have sufficient space for this equipment because of the installation of a new concession stand and storage facility.

Mr. Sandberg gave clarity of the locations of the parks with a map after an inquiry was made by Council.

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "I think it is a good idea that you are trying to spread things out a little bit since the other park will not be open for a while."

5. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Shannon Bennett, TRMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton
Mayor