

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 21, 2020 BEGINNING AT 7:00 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 7:00 p.m.
2. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – No comments received.
3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO DRAINAGE ITEMS AT THE COURT AND THEATER BUILDING – Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Sandberg presented Council a presentation of different concepts to try to relieve some of the drainage issues at the facility. The proposed drainage improvements include grading, installation of new piping, tree removal, slope paving to drain water from building and ADA transition ramps and new doors. (Exhibit A1-A4)

City Engineer Adam Ballesteros clarified the different ideas for the drainage project that would enable the facility to be ADA compliant and to keep the water away from the building.

Mr. Sandberg continued the discussion with the concept of the removal of existing trees that could make way for ADA access.

Councilwoman Garrison asked, “Would you replace the trees with some kind of drought resistance shrubbery?”

Mr. Sandberg responded, “Yes.”

Councilwoman Garrison asked, “Would you be replacing all the doors?”

Mr. Sandberg responded, “Correct.”

Councilwoman Sinor asked, “Are the doors a part of the budget?”

Mr. Sandberg responded, “It’s coming out of the Contingency Budget. We have budgeted \$20,000 for that.”

Mayor Mouton asked, “Is this a drainage project? Are we just removing two trees and putting in an ADA sidewalk?”

Mr. Sandberg responded, “All that Mr. Ballesteros spoke about, pertains to the drainage portion of keeping the water away from the building.”

Mr. Ballesteros clarified the drainage needs from an engineering perspective and answered the questions from Council about the structural details of the project.

Councilman Patterson commented, “I would like to put in landscaping and drains. I do not want concrete there.”

Mr. Ballesteros commented, “With the direction we have now, we can start moving forward with the plan.”

4. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO RESTRICTING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE THAT CONNECTS THE DEER MEADOWS SECTION 3 SUBDIVISION TO DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL - SOUTH CAMPUS – City Manager James Stokes gave an overview of the June 2, 2020 meeting relating to the discussion of a gate versus a fence, with the discussion leading more towards the plan of a gate . The proposed gate would be closed when school was in session and opened when school was not, to allow neighboring citizens access to the bridge. The pricing is categorized in two options. The first option is priced at \$7,500 for a manually operated security device, which still leaves the issue of having to find the resources to be responsible in the opening and closing of the gate. The second option is priced at \$46,000 and is a device that can be operated and monitored remotely with a camera that would offer more flexibility.

Councilwoman Sinor commented, “I will give my opinion on this. I am not prepared at all to approve \$46,000 for a door that has an access system monitored by us. We live in different times now, things get destroyed for no reason at all. I just see this as something that will make someone mad and will be a fight for us to even keep it in working order. Again, just my opinion, but I remember coming very close to a decision to wall that portion off. I think that is a very hard decision, but also it is unfortunate how for many years now, kids have just continued to be worse since their parents have not taught them to be polite or respectful to homeowners in that area. I think the homeowners have been under siege long enough and just think it is time to close that bridge up. I am not supportive of approving \$46,000 to give

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access to the bridge at some times and not at others or trying to find another City worker to be solely responsible for the gate. It is going to be something you won't be able to win or lose. I just think it is a bad idea."

Councilwoman Garrison commented, "I agree with Councilwoman Sinor. I am not going to approve \$46,000 for a gate that will probably get torn up. I think it is sad that it has become our total responsibility because the school district is not going to do anything about it. Our Police Department will be the ones that will have to deal with the kids and all the problems. I think the easiest solution that may solve it is to close it permanently."

Councilman Patterson commented, "There were people that came and wanted to keep the gate open. These are citizens that live in that neighborhood, that want to have access to the football field stadium or whatever it may be. I don't like having to spend \$7,500 or \$46,000 either, but at the same time, this whole thing is a "no win" situation either way you go. We do have to recognize that there are a couple of streets that are impacted, but there are also a lot of people that use that bridge. All I'm saying is, there is something to consider, that there are other people in that neighborhood that we heard from, who want the bridge to stay open. This is a way of cutting it down the middle."

Councilman Martin asked, "What would it cost to put up just a fence?"

Information Technology Director James Lewis responded, "I think a safe number would be about \$5,000 just for the fence, if we didn't need to spend all of that, then of course we wouldn't."

Mayor Mouton asked, "No matter what route we take, is it still a City right-of-way? If we put in a fence and things don't work out, do we have the right to change our minds later and do something else?"

City Attorney Jim Fox responded, "Correct. The City controls the right-of-way."

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

After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with a wooden fence.

5. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Shannon Bennett, TRMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton
Mayor