

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
MARCH 16, 2021 BEGINNING AT 7:45 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS
PRESENT:

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

MAYOR
COUNCILWOMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN

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 6:45 p.m.
2. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE –
 - a. Adam Ballesteros, 2214 Trinity Park Court, commented, “Good evening Mayor, Council, Administration and members of the audience. I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you. The note I’m about to read I wrote over 2 years ago, but felt the need to read it today. When my wife and I first moved here from Dickinson, North Dakota almost 3 years ago, we were not sure what to expect. In the years that I’ve been here we have fallen in love with Deer Park and made it home. Our children go to school here, actually, they go to daycare and my wife and I both work here. I am fortunate enough to work for the City of Deer Park and see all of the hard work that our Staff put into the City. Everything from Parks to Police to Public Works and our emergency capabilities (Deer Park is the best place to have a heart attack, which sometimes I think my very young children are going to give me) to the School District. As time went on, and we were looking for places to live I knew that Deer Park would be a great place to live and call home. I am fortunate that I am typically here at these meetings working for the City of Deer Park in the capacity of City Engineer, however I am also able to hear all of the

work that our elected officials do to make Deer Park the premier community in the Houston area. I also know how hard-working all of our Staff is to make the City a better place to live work and play. My wife was not able to make it tonight, because she typically watches the children when I am at this meeting, but she also wanted me to thank everyone for making our home buying choice easier when we purchased our house here in Deer Park. Mayor, Council, Administration, we want to say thank you from Frida, Maximus, and Olivia. Thank you for welcoming us into your community. We are happy to be a part of it. We are so happy to be here. Also, have you seen the weather in North Dakota recently? It was 22 degrees there with 3 feet of snow last week. Thanks again for hiring me.”

3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING A UTILITY EASEMENT AT THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE’S BUILDING – City Manager James Stokes advised the Council Chad Burke, CEO of the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, recently approached Staff regarding an issue with the Alliance’s building (the former DPISD Administration Building) located at 203 Ivy Avenue. There are five City easements that still run across the property and underneath the Economic Alliance building. There are no utilities on any of those easements and Staff recommends the easement be abandoned. This would be of great benefit to the Economic Alliance, and is being requested by their financial institution.

4. PRESENTATION ON THE 2021 EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA – Jacob Zuniga, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director advised Council of the annual Easter Eggstravaganza with modification accordance with guidelines provided from Governor Gregg Abbott’s “Open Texas” plan listed under the outdoor event section. Mr. Zuniga invited Council to attend the events on Saturday, March 27th to include an Egg Hunt at the Deer Park Soccer Complex (901 East Blvd.) and a Pooch Hunt at the Ella and Friends Dog Park (500 W. 13th St.). In addition, the Friends of the Art Park Players will be hosting an “Easter Bunny & Friends Lunch & Fun” event.

Rene McBride, Recreational Supervisor highlighted details of the Pooch Hunt and distributed goody bags to Council.

5. PRESENTATION ON DOW PARK RECEIVING THE 2021 LONE STAR LEGACY AWARD FROM THE TEXAS RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY - Jacob Zuniga, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director gave an overview of the award and the criteria to submit Dow Park as a nominee to be recognized as an historical park around the State of Texas. Dow Park was one of eight parks recognized for the 2021 Lone Star Legacy Award and one of sixty-five parks that have ever been awarded this award. Mr. Zuniga thanked Councilwoman Sherry Garrison and the Historical Committee for all their support and assistance.

Debra Culp, Athletics and Aquatic Supervisor read a passage of what the “Lone Star Legacy Park” is all about and thanked past and current Council for their support and the Parks and Recreation for the up keep of the parks.

6. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE PURCHASE AND REPLACEMENT OF SECURITY FENCING AROUND THE DOW PARK POOL – Charlie Sandberg, Parks and Recreation Director advised Council of the renovations to the Dow Park Pool in 2014. The original 10’ chain link fence was replaced with a decorative 7’ “no climb” fence. The decorative fence met all required codes and was meant to secure the facility during the pool season and when it was not in season. Over the past several years, the City has seen an increased amount of unauthorized persons jumping the fence and trespassing at the facility. The City has taken several steps in an effort to secure the facility including adding signage, the installation of security cameras, and the strengthening of potential access points. However, this has failed to stop individuals from continuing to trespass on the facility. This has been a growing concern from Department Staff and they have been looking for a more secure solution. The Parks and Recreation Department has received a quote from Buyboard vendor Foster Fence, LTD for the purchase and installation of a 10’ fence that is to be a more secure style of fencing. The quote includes demolition of the existing fence, purchase of the new fence material, freight, installation, and mobilization and management for the job. The project was budgeted in the fiscal year 2020-2021 Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$105,000. The quote provided by Foster Fence, LTD is \$149,759 and would be purchased through the BuyBoard purchasing cooperative. The Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to utilize \$44,759 from the Park Operations division general fund budget to complete the project.
7. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Shannon Bennett, TRMC
City Secretary

Jerry Mouton, Jr.
Mayor