

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 OCTOBER 18, 2016, BEGINNING AT 6:15 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mayor Mouton called the workshop to order at 6:15 p.m.
2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE SALE OF CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2016-A - John Robuck of BOK Financial Securities, Inc. gave a presentation of the \$6,885,000 Certificate of Obligation, Series 2016-A and highlighted the schedule of events to include the current market condition, final sources and Uses of Funds and Final Debt Service Requirements. (Exhibit A1-A4)
3. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF NEW SECURITY GATES FOR THE DEER PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT- Chief Greg Grigg advised Council after twelve years of usage, the Police Station's original security gates are in need of replacement. The Department has examined multiple options for replacement and recommends the proposal from Lonestar Fence & Construction. The parking lot uses two swing gates, which open at a rate of 3' per second. This is much faster than standard gates, which open at a rate of less than 1' per second. The price of the unit is \$34,845.00.
4. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO ORDINANCE 3834, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VARIOUS INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY THE DEER PARK FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE – Mayor Mouton commented, "There have been questions raised

in the community. We thought it would be good to clarify the ordinance. We have Staff here and a few citizens that have comments. I hope that we can clear up some misunderstanding."

Emergency Services Director Robert Hemminger advised Council of approved Ordinance No. 3834 establishing fees for inspections and fees within the Fire Marshal's office. "The new structure allows the Fire Marshal's office to charge for conducting inspections. An implementation plan was presented to Council during deliberation. A letter was mailed out of the explanation to 300 impacted businesses to include banquet halls, churches, day care centers, foster care homes, group homes and rehabilitation centers and restaurants. The letter was addressed "Dear Local Business or Operator". It was intended as a generic term not intended to categorize anyone inappropriately. The requirements for these types of inspections are tied to a State license or a State certification especially with foster care. They are administered by the Texas Administrative Code 749.2903, in which a Certified Fire Inspector or a Local or State authority conducts an inspection annually. We compared the fees to other State and local authorities and we have the lowest fee of \$25. There are private Certified Fire Inspectors that establish their own fees, which range from \$90-\$150. We heard from one foster care agency after one of their foster care providers received the letter, who actually thanked us because they were paying \$125 in the private sector to get the inspection done. Now, they can be inspected by the City for \$25. This was not the intent to generate revenue. We have so many businesses that are required to be inspected. A couple of years ago, the Fire Inspector position was created and until now, we have been funding the salary ourselves. This was an opportunity to offset that salary that we have accrued because of the required inspections."

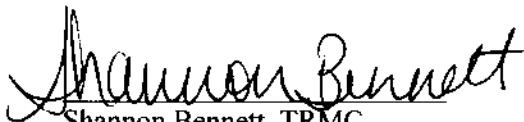
Mr. Crouch expressed his concerns relating to foster care providers being labeled as a business and the cost of the fire inspections. Mr. Crouch states, "It's a misunderstanding after hearing the presentation tonight. If there are only nine foster homes in the City, I do not think \$225 per year for revenue for the City makes a difference. I do not know if the \$25 fee is going stop anyone from fostering. I question, if we did not charge for that and encourage people to foster, since CPS is having a hard time placing children. I prefer there not being any fees for foster care providers who are not being reimbursed at all. It is an extra expense to them."

City Manager Jay Stokes commented, "Our understanding was, when you take a situation where families are not getting reimbursed at all, they are not a 501c3 or a non-profit. They would qualify not to pay the \$25 fee. They would send that to Mr. Hemminger's office. When we adopted this ordinance, we were under the impression is some situations, specifically through the State of Texas, the fee could be reimbursed. The State of Texas would reimburse the provider because that's a fee they are having to pay. Again, most providers around the State are having someone to do the inspection and that is a reimbursable fee. Can you be reimbursed by the State?"

Mr. Crouch answered, "It varies by agency through CPS. With my agency, we were given a per diem, which covers daycare, food and clothes."

After discussion, the consensus of the Council is to take the inspection fee for foster care providers out of the ordinance.

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

  
Shannon Bennett, TRMC  
Acting City Secretary

  
Jerry Mouton  
Mayor