

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 JANUARY 7, 2020 BEGINNING AT 6:00 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 6:00 p.m.
2. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO PARKING COMPLAINTS IN DEER PARK NEIGHBORHOODS – City Manager James Stokes gave an update of two different neighborhood and their concerns with on-street parking. The first neighborhood discussed included Tyler Street and Albany Street by the Deer Park High School South Campus. Police Chief Greg Grigg gave details of the efforts from the Police Department that seem to be effective in resolving the issue. Mr. Stokes also discussed speaking with former Councilman Chris Richey to ask if there was an issue with on-street parking for San Jacinto Baptist Church, to which Mr. Richey replied that there was not. Mr. Stokes and Chief Grigg met with the school Superintendent Victor White and Stephen Harrell to invite them to the meeting pertaining to the discussion of the on-street parking issue.

Councilman Patterson asked, “Why are these students not parking on campus?”

Assistant Superintendent Stephen Harrell responded, “The two main reasons basically is if a student doesn’t have a driver’s license or insurance, we do not allow them to have a parking permit. That is a criminal violation and we do not want to take that liability in an event they

hurt someone or have an accident.”

Councilman Martin asked, “The requirement for driver’s license and insurance is put on the application to get a decal to display? Is that patrolled so you know which are registered and which ones shouldn’t be parked there?”

Deer Park South Campus Principal Steve Corry responded, “Yes, we have a process that is all online. The insurance is not online, but the registration for the parking permit is online and they do get a decal for the semester or for the year. There is a small fee each semester.”

Councilwoman Sinor asked, “What is the fee?”

Mr. Corry responded, “It is \$10 per semester with two semesters in a calendar year which would total to \$20. Our Seniors have the option for preferred parking spots of \$30. Regarding that, just like any other fees associated with the High School or School District, if students are on free or reduced lunches, or have any other financial issues, we will work with them and find a way for them to park and get a decal.”

Mr. Harrell commented, “We routinely wave fees, reduce fees and do a variety of things. It’s not the money that is preventing them from getting a parking permit. It is one of those two items (lack of driver’s license or insurance) or they want to just avoid the traffic in the morning or the afternoon or they just want to hang out with their friends or stand over there and smoke a cigarette. For the most part, we believe it is a lack of one of those two items.”

Councilwoman Garrison asked, “What’s the history of that opening? Was it an idea of the City or the School District?”

Mayor Mouton responded, “It was probably plotted with the subdivision because it wouldn’t be a public right-of-way if it wasn’t plotted when the subdivision was laid out. That probably pre-dates anybody in the room.”

3. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE –

John Campbell 116 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, discussed the issue of his street being inundated with parked cars for the last 5-6 years. Mr. Campbell spoke in favor of signs to say “For residents or guests only”.

Mike Sutton 2505 Tyler Lane, spoke in favor of the School District not exempting students from parking in their parking lot, but instead allowing the students to park and not push the liability of their students to the neighborhood of Tyler Street and Albany Street.

Ruth Hance, 2502 Tyler Lane, spoke in favor of removing the walk-way/bridge from the neighborhood.

Sam Mining, 2609 Tyler Lane, referred a question to Council as to how the school district has the power to keep the students from parking on their property without properly met requirements, but the Police Department cannot do the same to students that are parking on Tyler Lane and Albany Street.



Mayor Mouton commented, "The majority of what we do up here will always have unintended consequences. I am advocating that we may have to do something very severe to culturally change this trend because it has obviously reached a point that will not change if we don't do anything."

Chief Grigg commented, "There are two different things going on here, even though taxpayers pay for both. They are under the Education Code, which is a completely different code than the Penal Code. Part of the Penal Code governs that parking lot, but the Education Code governs a lot of which we do not have anything to do with. It certainly does not apply to the street in that neighborhood, but it does apply to how the School District can control and access parking rights on school property because of the kids and the education environment the school district is allowed to do that. We do not have the same access on the street, if we put those restrictions on the street. If we have to apply to everyone. As for signs for residents only and guests, they can put those up, but no one can enforce that. If they try to, somebody can get sued. You cannot just arbitrarily say who can or can't park on a public street."

Mayor Mouton advised Staff of the need to have an action plan.

Amanda Tucker, 2613 Tyler Lane spoke in favor of removing the walk way/bridge from the neighborhood.

George Kelly, 2605 Tyler Lane, spoke on issues pertaining to the students parking on Tyler Lane and Albany Street and indicated that parents of students are also using Tyler Lane as a drop off and pick up and have blocked driveways in doing so.

It was the consensus of the Council to hold a public hearing to discuss restricting public access to the bridge.

Mr. Stokes gave an overview of the discussion between the Police Department, Public Works Department, the City Manager Staff along with owner of the building, Manny Menom and the separate owner of the business Luxury Events by Iram's, pertaining to the issues of the on-street parking on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Stokes advised Council that the owner of the business, Luxury Events by Iram's, proposed to do things differently like offering valet service that includes utilizing the nearby businesses, Boot Barn's and Dairy Queen's parking lot as an extension for parking for the guests. The owner also proposed to make the renters of the facility aware that parking is not allowed on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and would encourage the renters to take advantage of the valet service. It was also emphasized to the business owner that citations will be given out by the Police Department if there should be any violations of the noise ordinance. Mr. Stokes also discussed an incident that occurred December 28, 2019, where around 8:30 p.m., about 14 cars were parked on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Off-duty Pasadena officers arrived around 10:00 p.m. and cleared them out. It was communicated to the owner that the actions on that date in resolving the issue of having the security start at 10:00 p.m. was not acceptable. Mr. Stokes advised Council that the owner of Luxury Events by Iram did not comply with what they had committed to, that included having valet service and not having their guests park on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Manny Menom commented, "I think Mr. Campbell has a good issue and we have tried to address it. I don't know how this happened on the 28<sup>th</sup>, maybe the Police didn't arrive in



time. We have made this commitment and we want to fulfill this commitment of no parking on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. As far as the signs are concerned, I have no problem with putting up signs saying that on Friday and Saturdays, you cannot park from 7-12 at night. Then you would have a problem because the residents family and friends would be getting tickets too if they park there during those times. You are right Mayor. You are in a situation where there is not solution except that we try to cooperate with each other.”

Mayor Mouton commented, “I think as a business owner, I would ask you to tell your tenant to start complying because I think we are going down the road of forcing this scenario to make sure your tenant is not negatively impacting this community.”

Mr. Menom commented, “We will try our best to not have any more complaints.”

Chief Grigg proposed a recommendation to Council that there be flexibility to consider both options of signage on the north and south side of 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

It was the consensus of the Council to have a meeting to discuss no parking signs on 5<sup>th</sup> Street during certain weekend hours.

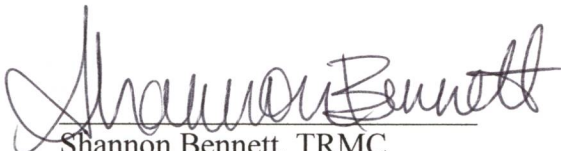
4. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE SEEKING OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 STEP COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT GRANT – Police Chief, Gregg Grigg gave an overview of the Police Department seeking a STEP Comprehensive Traffic Enforcement funding from the Texas Department of Transportation. For 2021, the Department is requesting a grant of \$76,285.20. The City of Deer Park will contribute a total of \$21,690.00 toward in-kind match, which equals 28.43% toward the grant. The combination of these funds will be used to reducing the number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities in Deer Park through the overtime enforcement of traffic statutes and public awareness efforts during the period of time from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, with a special emphasis on Christmas/New Year’s, Spring Break, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day.
5. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE SEEKING OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 STEP COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT GRANT – Police Chief, Gregg Grigg gave an overview of the Police Department seeking a STEP Commercial Vehicle Traffic Enforcement funding from the Texas Department of Transportation. For 2021, the Department is requesting a grant of \$16,175.70. The City of Deer Park will contribute a total of \$3,398.10 towards in-kind match. The combination of these funds will be used to provide additional Commercial Motor Vehicle enforcement and Education in the City of Deer Park.
6. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR PROGRAMMING AND MASTER PLANNING FOR THE JIMMY BURKE ACTIVITY CENTER AND SURROUNDING PROPERTY – City Manager James Stokes gave an overview of the proposed study to analyze the Jimmy Burke Activity Center. This study will provide several options of how the new Activity Center could be used throughout the year as well as possible phasing options for further development of the Athletic Complex. The athletic park assessment will analyze the existing athletic complex and determine several possible locations for the new Activity Center. A proposed agreement with BRW Architects, will

provide an analysis of the existing athletic complex and study the vehicle traffic and parking, pedestrian circulation, way finding, restroom facilities, hardscape deficiencies, landscape deficiencies, building and fire code deficiencies, as well as ADA deficiencies.

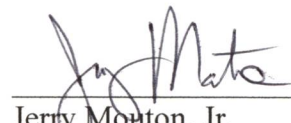
It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the agreement with BRW Architects.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL LITIGATION – Mayor Mouton recessed the workshop meeting at 7:11 p.m. for an Executive Session.
8. RECONVENED – Mayor Mouton reconvened the workshop meeting at 7:24 p.m.
9. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Shannon Bennett, TRMC  
City Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Jerry Mouton, Jr.  
Mayor