

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
JUNE 2, 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. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – No comments received.
3. EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL LITIGATION – Mayor Mouton recessed the workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m. for an Executive Session.
4. RECONVENED – Mayor Mouton reconvened the workshop meeting at 6:19 p.m.
5. PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 DEER PARK PARKS AND RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT – Marketing/Technical Coordinator Nicki Garvis gave an overview of the 2019 Parks and Recreation annual report and highlighted projects, marketing data and different activities and responsibilities within each division.

Councilwoman Sinor commented, “This is so beautifully done! There is a lot more information here than what you gave, but it is really presented pretty, clean and very easy to read. I know it took a lot of time. Thank you.”

6. PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON DEER PARK PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMER OPERATIONS – Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Sandberg presented the Live and Play brochure to Council that gave details of summer operations and safety measures that were modified and put in place to meet the needs of the citizens and the guidelines recommended by federal, state, county and local elected officials. The brochure was digitally advertised online on the City's website.
7. PRESENTATION OF THE DEER PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT – Police Chief Greg Grigg gave an overview of the 2019 Annual Police Report and highlighted the Animal Shelter's transition to the Police Department, swearing in of five (5) officers, the ITC event and the CALEA Accreditation event. Chief Grigg dedicated the 2019 annual report to the City employees with the EOC, Deer Park Firefighters and Police Department that helped with the ITC fire and thanked Shelia Plovovich Community Liaison for her hard work on the report.
8. PRESENTATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT – Public Works Director Bill Pedersen thanked Council and Administration for their continued support of the projects necessary to rehabilitate the City's infrastructure and highlighted key points of the annual report. Mr. Pedersen emphasized areas of responsibility of the departments that do not get much recognition for their behind the scenes work contribution and discussed the 50 projects that the Engineering Department managed including project management, contract administration, inspections and was able to save \$250,000 for in-house designs. In year 9 of the Water and Sewer Capital Improvements Plan, the department rehabilitated 3,100 linear feet of water lines and 30,000 linear feet of sewer lines. The street bonds that were expended enabled the department to replace about 7,000 linear feet of roadway. The Engineering Department has completed the rehabilitation of 7,650 linear feet of large diameter circular pipe, six (6) areas of design of developmental elevation to alleviate flooding. Mr. Pedersen discussed the Planning and Development Department, which only had 12 home starts and 17 commercial starts in 2019 and an increase in code enforcement cases that included the top violations of high grass, junked vehicles and stagnant pools. The Sanitation Department averaged 84 tons of garbage and serve 11,000 homes a twice a week and the Street Maintenance Department completed 380 work orders for 2019 and maintain 110 miles street, 70 miles of storm sewer, 13 miles of ditches and 300 miles of sidewalks. Fleet Maintenance Department has gone to a work order system to enable all the work orders to be documented for auction vehicles and has serviced 75 vehicles, 175 pieces of equipment and 35 pieces of large equipment to include garbage trucks, dump trucks and buses. The Traffic Department maintain signals, signs, electrical works for all facilities, parks and HVAC systems. The Water and Sewer Maintenance Department serviced 25 water main breaks and 35 lift stations, 140 miles of water lines, 145 sewer lines, 1000 fire hydrants, 1,400 manholes and completed 620 work orders in 2019. The Waste Water Treatment Plant averages 3.2 millions of waste water a day and hauls 700 metric tons of sludge to the landfill every year. The Water Treatment Plant treats 1.4 billion gallons of water annually, averages 3.9 million gallons of drinking water per day and collects 360 samples to ensure required TCEQ guidelines are met. This Department also maintains 3 half-million gallon elevated towers, 5 million gallon ground storage tanks and 3 water well sites.

9. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO AN AGREEMENT WITH KIT PROFESSIONALS, INC FOR ASSISTANCE MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (AWIA) – Public Works Water Plant Supervisor Nicholas Cook gave an overview of the provisions from the American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA), that requires the community water system serving a population greater than 3,300 to provide the RRA, an all-hazards approach with relative probabilities of occurrences to critical utility assets at risk and develops associated management strategies to mitigate the risk. Mr. Cook advised Council of the approval of KIT Professionals, Inc. to assist with engineering services regarding the requirements of the AWIA that include assessments of pipes and constructed conveyances, physical barriers, source water, collection and intake, pretreatment and treatment, storage and distribution facilities, and electronic, computer and other automated systems.
10. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO REMOVAL OF ORDINANCE SECTIONS 14-153 AND 14-154 RELATING TO THE MANDATORY REGISTRATION OF PRIVATELY OWNED DOGS AND CATS – City Manager James Stokes gave an overview of the recommendation from the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee to abolish the particular sections requiring to annually register privately owned dogs and cats.

Councilwoman Garrison asked, “Do we know how long this has been on the books?”

Mr. Stokes responded, “I would guess it’s been in the book for decades.”

11. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO RESTRICTING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE THAT CONNECTS THE DEER MEADOWS SECTION 3 SUBDIVISION TO DEER PARK HIGH SOUTH CAMPUS – City Manager James Stokes gave an overview of the history of the bridge and the comments of residents who spoke in favor and who spoke in opposition to restrict access to the bridge at a prior Council meeting. Mr. Stokes advised Council that law enforcement was involved with monitoring the street to encourage students not to park there. A potential compromised position of the City, due to the school district wanting to keep the bridge, is to consider the option to issue a “No Parking” sign on Albany Street that is located closest to the bridge during certain hours. Another compromised position could potentially be to completely seal off the bridge from public usage. These options can be implemented immediately or can be delayed until the Fall when school starts.

Councilwoman Garrison asked, “Why do you think the school wants to keep the bridge opened?”

Mr. Stokes responded, “I think the biggest issue is that there are kids in that neighborhood that go to the school that use and are not parking there. Sealing it off is being done because of the students that are parking on the streets but there is a much greater number of students that still use the bridge besides them.”

Councilwoman Garrison commented, “There are also parents that are parked there after school to pick up students, which doubles the problem. I do think this is eventually going to come back. It is never going to go away. They did this a long time ago, it’s too bad they did that when they built that subdivision.”

Councilman Patterson asked, "This is a City owned bridge?"

Mr. Stokes responded, "The bridge crosses the ditch, and that is not a City ditch. I would say the school owns the bridge. We are not talking about actually removing the bridge, but we do have the right to control the access to the bridge because that is part of the dedication of the subdivision, so that is City property."

Councilwoman Sinor commented, "I just find it so interesting that the school district is so adamant to keep it open, but so unwilling to help with the problem."

Mr. Stokes commented, "I would say, in defense of the school district, is that the times we have called them and said it is happening again, they have done some things. They have sent staff members and the vice principal to try and intercept some of those kids from parking there. They may give out free stickers if the student doesn't have the \$20 for the parking permit, but that is a small percentage because most of them are parking on the street because they don't have insurance. They are not allowed to park at the school if they don't have insurance. I think the school district has done some things to try to help, but it is just a pervasive ongoing constant issue. Just like we can't have an officer out there every single day monitoring the bridge, they can't have a vice principal at the bridge every minute of the day either."

Mayor Mouton commented, "We are talking about it being a public road and the school district actually forcing the kids not to park there when it is legal to park there. They are not parking on school property where the school can force them to go park somewhere else, it is on a public right of way. Then we will have the obvious scenario, if we make it a no parking area, of someone who does live over there, will have to comply because you cannot have selective enforcement. I am all for trying to do something to address the problem. Sometimes we get blamed, we as the government, because we won't go fix these problems. The worst case scenario, if you shut it down, you will have unintended consequences to people that genuinely have used the bridge for years and raised their kids walking through there that live in that subdivision. I have spoken with the Superintendent about a year ago and I don't remember the exact number, but there were a large number of kids, maybe 50 or 60 that would potentially walk through there."

Councilwoman Sinor commented, "The only thing we can do besides closing it, is to make some of those roads "No Parking."

Councilwoman Garrison asked, "How do we enforce that?"

Councilman Martin commented, "Just like we did on W. 5th Street. It is the exact same scenario. This is a tough one, personally, I don't want to see it closed. When the group came in and spoke for the bridge, I feel for them and yes, they can walk around, but personally, I would rather see the bridge stay open. I am glad we may have an option to be able to put up "No Parking" signs, but like Mayor said, some people will be happy with it and some people won't."

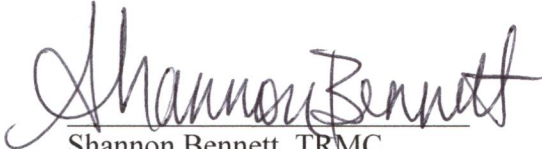
Councilman Haight asked, "Are we talking about certain hours on the "No Parking?"

Mr. Stokes commented, "What Chief Grigg and I talked about was just "No Parking" on Albany Street. We could make that "No Parking" as we did on W. 5th Street, however, that means no parking for everybody."


After a lengthy discussion, Council will take action in the Regular Council meeting.

12. ADJOURN – Mayor Mouton adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Shannon Bennett, TRMC
City Secretary

APPROVED:


Jerry Mouton, Jr.
Mayor