

MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, 4700 DREXEL DRIVE, ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020, AT 8:12 A.M.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Margo Goodwin, Mayor Pro Tem John McKnight, and Town Council Members David L. Dowler, Eric Gambrell, Jimmy Grisham, and Craig Penfold.

UPCOMING AGENDA DISCUSSION

Action

No items assigned to this category.

Consent

“Review and discuss a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to provide engineering services for the Airline Road and Mockingbird Lane Rehabilitation project. Lori Chapin, P.E., Director of Engineering Services, explained that the agreement covers the design and bid package preparation services for the Airline Road and Mockingbird Lane Rehabilitation project. Mayor Goodwin asked if anyone wished to ask questions, to which there was no response.

FUTURE AGENDAS DISCUSSION

“Review and discuss traffic management initiatives related to Bradfield Elementary School.” Lori Chapin described the elements of Option A to manage traffic congestion during drop-off and pick-up times at the school: (i) convert the 4400 block of Southern Avenue to one-way westbound; (ii) prohibit right turns from westbound Southern Avenue onto Armstrong Parkway and from northbound Armstrong Parkway onto Mockingbird Lane during peak school hours; (iii) add on-street parking restrictions; and (iv) add a four-way stop to the intersection of Lomo Alto Drive and Southern Avenue for additional safety. Ms. Chapin explained that Town staff presented proposed solutions to the Bradfield Elementary School Principal and to the Highland Park Independent School District’s Public Safety staff, all of whom agreed that Option A is the preferred solution. A letter and a map will be sent to residents to inform them of the proposed changes and notify them of an upcoming informational meeting. An ordinance will be presented to the Town Council at its meeting on February 18 for review, discussion, and consideration. The proposed changes are planned to be implemented during Spring Break. Mayor Goodwin expressed concern for the students who live east of Preston Road, and who will have a less direct route to the school with these proposed changes. Mayor Pro Tem McKnight commented that the conversion of the 4400 block of Southern Avenue to one-way seems to push the traffic congestion to Southern Avenue and Lomo Alto Drive. In response, Lori Chapin explained that traffic counts for vehicles and pedestrians were taken at both intersections; vehicles can proceed straight or turn left at the intersections where right turns will be prohibited. Council Member Gambrell asked about the statutory notice requirements regarding the area to be included in the notice. Bill Lindley, Town Administrator, explained that there is no statutory requirement; the Town planned to notify the property owners along Southern Avenue. Council Member Gambrell asked to expand the area to provide the notice to more people. In response, Bill Lindley proposed to expand the area up to Potomac Avenue to the north, and noted that the Town will work with the City of University Park to do so. Council Member Penfold remarked on the current congestion when cars are parked on both sides of Southern Avenue, and suggested allowing cars to park on only one side of the street. Mayor Goodwin stated that this bottleneck situation may be alleviated by implementing

and monitoring one-way traffic. She expressed her preference to implement the one-way traffic designation at all times, rather than during school drop-off and pick-up hours, to lessen confusion. In response, Lori Chapin explained that traffic on Southern Avenue between Douglas Avenue and Armstrong Parkway is currently one-way; the parking situation could be reviewed, and possibly restrict on-street parking a certain distance from the corner. In response to a question from Mayor Goodwin, Lori Chapin explained that the right-turn prohibition onto Mockingbird Lane was implemented to accommodate pedestrian movement. Mayor Goodwin commented on the safety concerns for the crossing guards in getting children across the street, and expressed concern for the residents of the western portion of Southern Avenue who will be impacted. Rick Pyle, Director of Public Safety, stated that Public Safety staff has spoken to some of the Southern Avenue residents who are receptive to the changes and love the idea of a four-way stop at Lomo Alto Drive. Tom Grant, P.E., Vice President, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., stated that morning traffic counts found 100 cars currently turn right onto Mockingbird Lane against 200 pedestrians; in the afternoon, 30 cars turn right against 250 pedestrians. The prohibited right turns were recommended to enhance safety. Lori Chapin affirmed that the 4500 block of Southern Avenue will remain a two-way street. Mayor Goodwin stated that notifying more people of the proposed changes will be a benefit, because people will need time to make adjustments to their customary routes. Lori Chapin added that in addition to the letters, residents will be notified in the Blue Zone News.

REPORTS

No items assigned to this category.

CLOSED SESSION

- 1. In accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 – CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY – the Town Council will convene into closed session for consultation with and legal advice from the Town Attorney regarding substandard buildings (4509 Mockingbird) and pending or contemplated litigation: *Brei v. Highland Park* (Cause No. DC-19-10246).*

Mayor Goodwin recessed the study session at 8:43 a.m. and convened a closed session pursuant to the above-referenced section of the Texas Government Code.

Mayor Goodwin closed the closed session at 9:00 a.m. and reconvened the study session in open session. No final action, decision, or vote was taken during the closed session.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Goodwin asked for discussion or a motion as a result of the closed session, to which there was no response.

Mayor Goodwin adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

APPROVED on this the 18th day of February, 2020.

BY:



Margo Goodwin
Mayor

ATTEST:



Gayle Kirby
Town Secretary