

MINUTES OF AN ONLINE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, AT 8:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021.

Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary, explained that as provided by the State of Texas, this online Town Council meeting could be viewed online or listened to by telephone, and gave the toll-free and alternate telephone numbers, the access number for citizens to call, and the website link to view the meeting. The public was provided an opportunity to email a question or comment, which closed at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021.

Mrs. Mekeal conducted a roll call of the Town Council Members. Present at the meeting were Mayor Margo Goodwin, Mayor Pro Tem David Dowler, and Town Council Members Jimmy Grisham, Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Craig Penfold.

Margo Goodwin introduced herself, called the work session to order at 8:03 a.m., and asked if any Town Council Members wished to discuss any of the items on the Regular Agenda. Council Member Penfold stated he would like to comment on item *A. Consider an additional request to extend the construction time for a new single-family residence at 3412 Beverly Drive.* Mike Reagan, the current contractor, spoke with Council Member Penfold about the efforts being made on the construction project. During the discussion, he received reassurance from Mr. Reagan that the project would be completed by June 21, 2021. The Mayor thanked Council Member Penfold for sharing the information to the Town Council and, with no further comments, closed the work session at 8:07 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Dowler gave the Invocation.

Mayor Goodwin asked if anyone calling in wished to address the Town Council and explained that the Town Council may not discuss or make decisions on items not listed on the agenda. Issues raised may be referred to staff for research and possible future action. No comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Council Member Lydia Novakov, seconded by Council Member Marc Myers, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve Items A. through C. on the Consent Agenda. Prior to the vote, Mayor Goodwin explained that the Town Council reviewed these items prior to the meeting. She asked if any Town Council Member wished to ask questions or make any revisions or corrections, to which there was no response.

- A. Consider an additional request to extend the construction time for a new single-family residence at 3412 Beverly Drive.*
- B. Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on February 16, 2021.*
- C. Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council study session held on February 16, 2021.*

MAIN AGENDA

A Resolution authorizing the Town Administrator to take the necessary action to provide relief measures related to Town building permits and utility billings for residents impacted by the 2021 Winter Storm. Steven Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained the 2021 Winter Storm was particularly unique in the impact of Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) which regulates the statewide electric power grid, and Oncor which provides electric distribution to the DFW region, causing electric power disruptions to homes and businesses in the Town. The lack of electricity led to a loss of heating of homes severely limiting the homeowner to keep water pipes from freezing and potentially bursting. The resolution proposed offers three (3) key items: (1) Water drip credit, Texas citizens were advised to run a slow drip from their home faucets to prevent frozen water pipes. Based on the information provided by WaterSmart, the Town's water tracking software, the customer will receive a combined \$10.00 credit on the water and sanitary sewer portions of the March invoice. The sanitary sewer credit is proposed given the Town invoices sewer service on a month-to-month basis based on water usage. The credit would not be applied to irrigation meters; (2) extend the current leak adjustment policy to include leaks caused by frozen pipes due to the storm, the Town's current leak adjustment ordinance does not consider freezing pipes; (3) waive plumbing permit requirements for minor plumbing repairs, the Town would not charge a fee or inspect minor repairs of water lines that broke due to freezing temperatures. Council Member Novakov asked how staff can be proactive to send this information to residents. Mr. Alexander stated it will be communicated through the WaterSmart system, Blue Zone, and other social media channels. Mayor Pro Tem asked if the software was able to calculate a percentage credit rather than a flat rate credit. Mr. Alexander stated that he is unaware of the system's ability to calculate a percentage, but it could be a manual process for staff. Bill Lindley, Town Administrator, added staff researched other cities and those cities providing a credit, are implementing a flat credit amount. The Mayor asked if a resident felt the credit was not enough, what would be the resident's recourse. Mr. Lindley recommended only the \$10.00 credit, due to the complexity of managing different responses and adjustments to approximately 3,100 customers. On a motion by Council Member Penfold, seconded by Council Member Myers, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve a Resolution authorizing the Town Administrator to take the necessary action to provide relief measures related to Town building permits and utility billings for residents impacted by the 2021 Winter Storm.

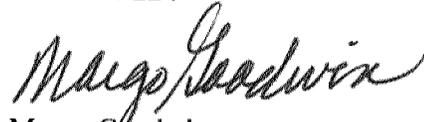
RESOLUTION NO. 005-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO PROVIDE RELIEF MEASURES FOR TOWN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY THE 2021 WINTER STORM; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Goodwin adjourned the Town Council meeting at 8:28 a.m.

Approved on this the 6th day of April 2021.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Goodwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Margo Goodwin
Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Mekeal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary