

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, 4700 DREXEL DRIVE, HIGHLAND PARK, TX, 75205, AT 8:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Margo Goodwin, Mayor Pro Tem David Dowler, and Town Council Members Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Craig Penfold. Council Member Jimmy Grisham was absent.

Mayor Goodwin introduced herself, called the work session to order at 8:01 a.m., and asked if any Town Council Members wished to discuss any of the items on the Regular Agenda. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the work session at 8:02 a.m.

Mayor Goodwin gave the Invocation.

Mayor Goodwin asked if anyone 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.

John Sargent, 3214 St. Johns Drive, requested the Town Council to consider posting a policy for photographers at the parks located in the Town of Highland Park. Mr. Sargent shared he is a photographer and has noted several other photographers working at the parks at one time; trash such as glitter and icing are left in flower beds from these photography sessions. Mr. Sargent believed that creating a policy, like McGovern Centennial Gardens in Houston, in efforts to keep the parks clean and less crowded would benefit residents and guests. Mayor Goodwin thanked Mr. Sargent for his comment.

Mayor Goodwin presented a proclamation designating September 17 through 23, 2021, as Constitution Week. Maureen Baker, Regent of Highland Park Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, accepted the proclamation along with Frances Grigsby and Juli Harrison. Ms. Baker thanked the Mayor and Town Council for their recognition of Constitution Week.

Mayor Goodwin presented a proclamation designating the month of September as Library Card Sign-Up Month to Kortney Nelson, Town Librarian. Mrs. Nelson thanked the Mayor and Town Council for their support of the library. Mayor Goodwin encouraged the attendees to stop by the library and get their card.

PUBLIC HEARING

Conduct a public hearing to receive public comments on the Proposed Combined Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Steven Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained the purpose of this public hearing is to provide a forum for public comments on the Proposed FY 2021-22 Combined Budget ("Proposed Budget"). Mayor Goodwin asked if anyone would like to make a comment or ask a question.

John Altschuler, 4565 Rheims Place, suggested to the Town Council to consider adding a new park. In response to a question raised by Council Member Penfold, Mr. Altschuler recommended

a possible park location on the corner of Douglas and Armstrong in the northeast corner. Mr. Altschuler also commented that the inflation rate of 2% appears to be low, and inquired about having more discussion on the balance sheet during the budget process. Mr. Alexander responded that this is the first time the Proposed Budget included an inflation rate for specific projects, and it was recommended by the water and wastewater consultant that the Town incorporate the inflation factor going forward. In response to the question regarding the balance sheet, Mr. Alexander explained that the Proposed Budget focuses on revenues and expenditures, and begins with a projected fund balance, a measure that approximates working capital. He added that the Town's assets are composed primarily of cash, investments, and capital assets. The Town's liabilities are composed primarily of payables, compensating balances, and liabilities related to other post-employment benefits and pension.

Elliott Perry, 3908 Lexington Avenue, asked if the Town is capable burying electrical power lines and budgeting the required expenses. Bill Lindley, Town Administrator, explained this question has been brought to Town staff in the past. It is an expensive project and aside from the cost, which is approximately over 70 million dollars, Oncor would require different sizes and locations where transformers would be installed. One property owner may be required to give up more of their property than another owner. For these reasons, it has not been pursued.

Mayor Goodwin thanked the speakers for their questions and comments and asked if anyone else would like to make a comment or ask a question, to which there were none.

Conduct a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the 2021 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate. Steven Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained the Town's computed 2021 no-new-revenue and voter-approval tax rates are \$0.224473 and \$0.251387 per \$100 of taxable assessed value, respectively. At its meeting on August 17, 2021, the Town Council set a preliminary tax rate of \$0.230000 per \$100 of taxable assessed value, which is the same as the current tax rate. The no-new-revenue tax rate is the calculated tax rate that, when applied to the current year's taxable value, minus the taxable value of new construction, would generate the same tax dollars as levied in the prior year. Mayor Goodwin asked if anyone would like to make a comment or ask a question, to which there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Council Member Craig Penfold, 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. The Mayor asked if any Town Council Member wished to ask questions or make any revisions or corrections, to which there was no response.

- A. Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on August 17, 2021.*
- B. Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council study session held on August 17, 2021.*

C. Consider approval of the minutes of the Town Council special meeting held on August 13, 2021.

Mayor Goodwin adjourned the Town Council meeting at 8:41 a.m.

Approved on this the 21st day of September 2021.

APPROVED:


Margo Goodwin
Mayor

ATTEST:


Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary