

MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD AT TOWN HALL, 4700 DREXEL DRIVE, HIGHLAND PARK, TX, 75205 AT 8:19 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Craig Penfold, and Town Council Members Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, Don Snell, and Leland White.

Future Agenda Discussion

Review, discuss, and consider approval of a donation for additional lighting along Lakeside Drive and planned improvements for Lakeside Park. Lori Chapin P.E., Director of Engineering, explained that Town staff was contacted by a resident requesting additional lighting along Lakeside Drive between Armstrong Avenue and Beverly Drive, and along Beverly Drive between Preston Road and Lakeside Drive. The resident offered to pay for all costs associated with the purchase and installation of the additional lights. In response to a question raised by Council Member White, Ms. Chapin explained that staff proposes adding a total of seven streetlights and 13 pathway bollard-style lights. The lights would be spaced along Lakeside Drive, bisecting the distance between the cross streets and the pathway lighting. One streetlight would be added to the south side of Beverly Drive between the bridge and Preston Road. This would provide a combination of streetlight and subtle pathway lighting along Lakeside Drive and the park; but would not cast light across the street or onto adjacent property. In response to a question raised by Council Member Novakov, Ms. Chapin explained that staff, as a courtesy, contacted the 20 residents along Lakeside Drive and have yet to receive any objections to the additional lighting. In response to a question raised by Council Member White, Ms. Chapin explained that the cost of adding the proposed lighting is approximately \$166,000. The cost includes design and installation of all lighting fixtures, wiring, and conduit and will be paid through the donation from the resident. Any difference between the cost estimate and the actual expense will be adjusted with the donor. In response to a question raised by Mayor Beecherl, Matthew Boyle, Town Attorney, confirmed that there will be an executed agreement and donation completed before the installation of the lights begins. On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig Penfold and seconded by Council Member Marc Myers, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve acceptance of a donation for additional lighting along Lakeside Drive and planned improvements for Lakeside Park.

Review and discuss the replacement of the Town's data center server system. Shone Doville, Information Technology Manager, explained that it is the best business practice to replace server systems every five to seven years to prevent equipment failures and service interruptions. The current data center server equipment has reached the end of its life cycle. To continue providing a reliable and flexible computing environment, the server system needs to be replaced. The proposed replacement system is sized to meet the Town's projected needs for the next five years. If approved by the Town Council, staff proposes to purchase the equipment and services from Centre Technologies and Sequel Data Systems under cooperative contracts that were bid by the State of Texas Department of Information Resources. The State's bid is competitively priced to the benefit of the Town. Mayor Beecherl asked if there were any questions, to which there were none.

Review and discuss the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and related audit for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Steven Alexander, C.P.A., Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, introduced John DeBurro C.P.A., Partner of Weaver and Tidwell, LLP. Mr.

DeBurro explained that the annual audit was conducted in accordance with governmental auditing standards and fulfills the requirements set out in state law. The audit resulted in an unmodified, or clean opinion, indicating the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, under generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, he stated there were no material weaknesses in internal control, and no audit adjustments were made. Mr. Alexander and Karen Kurtin, C.P.A., Deputy Chief Financial Officer, presented the Statement of Net Position highlights. When comparing 2022 to 2021, the net position increased by \$10.8 million. Ms. Kurtin also presented the Statement of Activity highlights, capital asset additions, and Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) net pension information. Mr. Alexander presented the Reconciliation of Total Cash and Investments, \$56,182,984, to fund balance. Mayor Beecherl asked if there were any questions, to which there were none.

Review and discuss an amendment to the Town's current Fire Prevention Code outlined in the accompanied Town ordinance. Ryan Pursley, Fire Marshal, explained the proposed amendment the Town's current Fire Prevention Code is to address Energy Storage Systems ("ESS") safety. Captain Pursley further explained that ESS can store energy, commonly supplied through solar or photovoltaic systems, to supply on-demand energy for a future time. This stored energy is converted into electricity that can be used to power a residence, charge an electric vehicle, or replace a resident's need to remain on the electrical grid. Although innovative in design, ESS technology lacks the empirical evidence desired to confirm its safety when installed in residential or commercial applications. Proper regulation of ESS will address technological updates and battery chemistry improvements and ultimately aid the Department of Public Safety in rescue and fire suppression operations. The Fire Prevention Code must address the electrochemical aspect of ESS technology. Electrochemical ESS produces and stores energy in lithium-ion batteries through chemical reactions. Two concerning hazards associated with lithium-ion technology are thermal runaway and hazardous gas release. Amending the current Fire Prevention Code will help protect residents and the Town from either of these known hazards while providing residents with opportunities to explore energy storage and conservation safely. This amendment provides information, guidance, and refines the construction and operational requirements to regulate current and future ESS technologies.

There are no active ESS in the Town of Highland Park. This amendment will not affect any existing or prospective electric vehicle owner's ability to install a residential-rated wall connector at their residence. In response to questions raised by council members, Captain Pursley stated that the proposed ordinance would have a maximum allowed kilowatt-hour (kWh) capacity for each occupancy, property, or open area of 80 kWh. The ordinance will also note that all ESS shall be permitted and installed in accordance with the current Highland Park Fire Prevention Code. The Fire Prevention Code Official is the final interpretive authority of code interpretations, permitting, and installation requirements. Mayor Beecherl asked if there were any further questions, to which there were none.

Review, discuss, and consider the opportunity for a Town Council Member to request an item to be placed on a future Town Council meeting agenda. The Mayor asked if any Town Council Member would like to request an item be placed on a future Town Council study session agenda for discussion or consideration.

Mayor Pro Tem Penfold stated he supports the WaterSmart program and would like to hear from Town staff about ways to motivate all residents to participate in the program.

Council Member Myers suggested that staff prepare research and discuss with the Town Council regulating gas-powered leaf blowers.

Council Member White and Novakov asked for an update on the Highland Park Shopping Village parking matter and parking enforcement measures.

Reports

Review and discuss the monthly Financial and Investment Report for the period ending October 31, 2022. Karen Kurtin, C.P.A., Deputy Chief Financial Officer, presented highlights of the Financial and Investment Report. This report is for the period ending October 31, 2022, which marks the completion of the first month of the 2022 - 2023 fiscal year. Therefore, the year-to-date percentage for budgetary comparison purposes is 8.33%. General and Utility Funds combined revenues amount to \$3,335,612, which is 7.3% of the annual budgeted amounts. The General and Utility Funds combined expenditures and encumbrances amount to \$3,092,273 or 6.7% of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Combined Budget. The October 2022 Investment Report was also provided to the Town Council. The total market value of the Town's cash and investment portfolio on October 31, was \$56,441,275; yielding an average weighted return of 2.60% with an average maturity of 117 days. This report was provided to the Finance & Audit Advisory Committee and Town Council on January 13, 2023. Mayor Beecherl asked the Town Council if they had any questions, to which there were none.

CLOSED SESSION

1. In accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 – PERSONNEL MATTERS – the Town Council will convene into closed session to conduct the annual performance evaluation of the Municipal Court Judge.
2. 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 to receive legal advice from the Town Attorney regarding Dallas Love Field operating issues.

Mayor Beecherl recessed the study session at 9:48 a.m. Mayor Beecherl convened a closed session at 9:53 a.m., pursuant to: (1) In accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, the Town Council will convene into closed session to conduct the annual performance evaluation of the Municipal Court Judge, and (2) In accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.071, the Town Council will convene into closed session to receive legal advice from the Town Attorney regarding Dallas Love Field operating issues.

Mayor Beecherl ended the closed session at 10:29 a.m., and reconvened the study session in open session at 10:29 a.m. No final action, decision, or vote was taken during the closed session.

OPEN SESSION

Pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Texas Government Code, the final action, decision, or vote regarding Closed Session Item 1. above, shall be made. No action was taken.

Pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Texas Government Code, the final action, decision, or vote regarding Closed Session Item 2. above, shall be made. No action was taken.

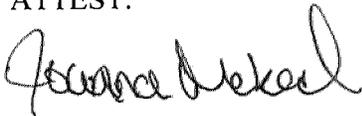
Mayor Beecherl adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVED on this 7th day of February 2023.

APPROVED:

Will C. Beecherl
Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary