

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 8:16 A.M. ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024.

Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell, Town Council Members Alan Friedman, Marc Myers, and Lydia Novakov were present at the meeting. Council Member Leland White was absent.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Beecherl asked if anyone wished to address the Town Council about any item listed on the agenda and explained that the Town Council may not discuss or make decisions on items not listed on the agenda. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker unless otherwise required by law. Items suggested for action may be placed on a future agenda at the Town Council's discretion. There was no comment.

**Future Agenda Discussion**

*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. There was no comment.

**Reports**

*Review and discuss a presentation by CRUISE on driverless cars in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.* Wayne Kilmer, Assistant Director of Public Safety, explained that driverless car technology is currently in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Cruise is a General Motors company that utilizes driverless technology and has established operations near Love Field Airport. Cruise has advised that it operates in supervised driving mode in Highland Park, University Park, Farmers Branch, and Dallas. The Town is gathering as much information as possible to plan for the arrival of autonomous vehicles. Cruise representatives have trained the Department of Public Safety personnel on the functionality of its cars, how to disable them, and what to do when there is an emergency involving a driverless car. The Texas Department of Transportation regulates autonomous vehicles. As such, local governments cannot enact restrictions on the technology or its use. Yariel Diaz, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, presented Cruise's mission, the mapping of the service area, the technology of the sensors on the vehicle, the training that was conducted with the Public Safety Officers, and a short video of a Cruise vehicle driving in San Francisco. In response to a question raised by Council Member Novakov, Mr. Diaz explained that the cars could not go faster than 35 miles per hour, and the vehicles fit two to three passengers. In response to a question raised by Mayor Beecherl, Mr. Diaz stated that if a passenger wanted to exit the car prior to reaching its destination, they could do so using the app or a touch screen located inside the vehicle.

*Review and discuss the monthly Financial and Investment Report for the period ending June 30, 2024.* John Samford, CPA, Director of Finance, presented the highlights of the Financial and Investment Report. This report is for the period ending June 30, 2024, which marks the completion of two-thirds of the 2023-24 fiscal year. Therefore, the year-to-date percentage for budgetary comparison purposes is 75.0%. General and Utility Fund combined revenues amount to

\$37,450,139, 83.4% of the annual budgeted amounts. The General and Utility Fund combined expenditures and encumbrances amount to \$36,741,420 or 73.6% of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Combined Budget. The total market value of the Town's cash and investment portfolio on June 30 was \$67,040,023, yielding an average weighted return of 5.42%, with an average maturity of 76 days. For the fiscal year-to-date through this reporting period, investment income totals approximately \$2,590,621. Mayor Beecherl asked the Town Council if they had any questions, to which there were none.

## 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 to receive legal advice from the Town Attorney regarding electronic bike ordinance and regulations, construction schedules and permit extension ordinance and regulations, and pending or contemplated litigation (Sam C. Tamborello v. Town of Highland Park - Case No. 3-24CV1356-E and Patricia Ellis and James Ellis v. Town of Highland Park - Case No. DC-24-06608).*
2. *In accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, – PERSONNEL MATTERS – the Town Council will convene into closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, and duties of the Town Secretary, Municipal Judge, and Town Administrator.*

Mayor Beecherl recessed the study session at 8:50 a.m. Mayor Beecherl convened a closed session at 8:53 a.m., pursuant to (1) 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 electronic bike ordinance and regulations, construction schedules and permit extension ordinance and regulations, and pending or contemplated litigation (Sam C. Tamborello v. Town of Highland Park - Case No. 3-24CV1356-E and Patricia Ellis and James Ellis v. Town of Highland Park - Case No. DC-24-06608) and (2) Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, – PERSONNEL MATTERS – the Town Council will convene into closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, and duties of the Town Secretary, Municipal Judge, and Town Administrator.

Mayor Beecherl ended the closed session at 10:02 a.m. and reconvened the study session in open session at 10:02 a.m. No final action, decision, or vote was taken during the closed session.

## OPEN SESSION

1. *Pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Texas Government Code, the final action, decision, or vote regarding Closed Session Item 1., 2., or 3. above shall be made, if any.*  
On a motion made by Council Member Marc Myers, seconded by Council Member Lydia Novakov, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the evaluation and compensation for the Town Secretary and Municipal Judge, and Amendment No. 1 to the Town Administrator's Employment Agreement as discussed in the executive session.

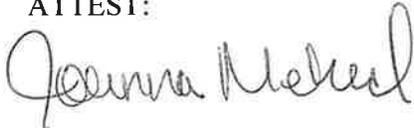
**Action Items**

*Review, discuss, and take action on a request to extend the construction timeframe a second time for a residential remodel/addition currently under construction at 3806 Beverly Drive.* Jeff Armstrong, Director of Community Development, explained that the property owners of 3806 Beverly Drive are requesting an additional 21-month extension on a construction permit issued for a residential remodel and addition. On May 2, 2023, a 12-month permit extension was granted by the Town Council. In July 2024, a revised construction schedule indicated the need for an additional 15-month permit extension. Staff recommends granting the extension of an additional 15 months to complete the project, extending the project completion date to December 26, 2025, and utilizing the fee schedule applicable at the time of the initial permit application. The fee amounts to \$11,780.10, representing 50% of the original building permit fee of \$23,560.20. On a motion made by Council Member Alan Friedman, seconded by Council Member Lydia Novakov, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve a request to extend the construction timeframe a second time for a residential remodel/addition currently under construction at 3806 Beverly Drive at 50% of the original building fee.

Mayor Beecherl adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

APPROVED on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

ATTEST:



Joanna Mekeal  
Town Secretary

APPROVED:



Will C. Beecherl  
Mayor