

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 8:42 A.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024.

Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell, and Town Council Members Alan Friedman, Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Leland White attended the meeting.

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 and discuss establishing the Town's Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Program. Lori Chapin, PE, Director of Engineering, and Tony Santoro, CEO of SC Tracking Solutions, presented cross-connection and backflow prevention protocols and requirements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") via the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") to protect against the contamination of the public water supply. Mr. Santoro expanded on the cross-connection and backflow prevention program and its benefits, including compliance with statewide mandates, prevention of contamination, improving the integrity of the water supply, and safeguarding public health. SC Tracking Solutions ("SCTS") is a state-approved program that provides certified technicians, customized reporting and control features, ordinance review and guidance, service provider links for the customers, TCEQ audit and open records support, visibility and data control, customer service and account representation, and annual inspections for commercial and residential. In response to a question raised by Council Member Myers, Mr. Santoro explained that there is no cost to the Town as all fees would be charged directly to the property owner via the technicians. Upon conclusion of the test, the technician will complete the report and submit it to SCTS. The technician pays the required fee to SCTS, which covers the base and administrative fees. While the technician fee charged to the residents can vary, a survey of the surrounding municipalities indicated that the total cost to test a backflow prevention assembly ranged between \$40-\$50. The consensus of the Town Council was to investigate options for developing a Town administered program. Ms. Chapin confirmed that this item would return with a proposed program and ordinance at a future Town Council Meeting.

Review and discuss the Town of Highland Park Legislative Priorities for the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Chelsey Gordon, Director of Policy Development and Strategic Initiatives, explained that the 89th Legislature will begin on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Legislators may file bills beginning on Monday, November 11, 2024. Each legislative session, the Town of Highland Park and the City of University Park develop joint priorities. Ms. Gordon reviewed each priority related to zoning, electric bikes, mass transit, debt instruments, pay-as-you-go for capital expenditures, hotel occupancy tax, sales tax collection, lobbying, qualified immunity, and confidentiality. The guiding philosophy of these priorities is to support legislation that preserves the authority to govern local affairs and oppose legislation that erodes this authority. Mayor Beecherl asked the Town Council if they had any questions, to which there were none.

Review and discuss a resolution casting the Town's vote for the Board of Directors of the Dallas Central Appraisal District. Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary, explained that Senate Bill 2, enacted by the 88th Texas Legislature, amended several sections of the Texas Property Tax Code regarding the composition of the board of directors for appraisal districts. The Town of Highland Park has ten votes to allocate to one nominee or disburse among the other nominees. There are 15 nominees named on the resolution ballot to represent the suburban cities and towns other than the City of Dallas. DCAD provided biographical information about the candidates. Council Member Lydia Novakov suggested providing more information about the candidates. Mrs. Mekeal confirmed that she would contact the candidates and present a recommendation at the Town Council Meeting on December 3, 2024.

Review and discuss the 2025 Town Council meeting schedule. Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary, explained that this item is an opportunity for the Town Council to review the meeting schedule for the year 2024. Section 2.09 of the Town Charter requires at least one monthly Town Council meeting. In addition, the Town Charter provides that the Town Council may schedule other meetings as desired. Currently, the Town Council schedules its regular meeting dates at 8:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Due to the holidays, the Town Council historically schedules only the first meeting of the month in November and December. Town Council requested the second meeting in July to be canceled. Mrs. Mekeal confirmed that the change would be made and presented for approval at the Town Council Meeting on December 3, 2024.

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.

Closed Session

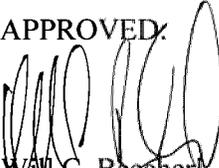
1. *In accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 - CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY - the Town Council will convene into closed session for consultation with and to receive legal advice from the Town Attorney regarding historic preservation and pending or contemplated 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).* The Town Council did not convene into a closed session.

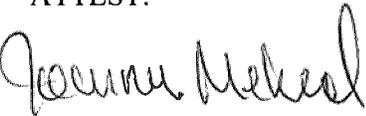
Open Session

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

Mayor Beecherl adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

APPROVED on this 3rd day of December 2024.

APPROVED:

Will C. Beecher
Mayor

ATTEST:

Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary