

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 8:13 A.M. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025.

Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell, and Town Council Members Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Alan Friedman attended the meeting. Town 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. Mayor Beecherl 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 the Highland Park Department of Public Safety's Texas Law Enforcement Agency Racial Profiling Report for 2024, and a report on the Highland Park Municipal Court best practices and disposition of citations for 2024. Chuck McGinnis, Director of Public Safety, explained that the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure requires reporting specific data collected on motor vehicle stops to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement ("TCOLE") and the governing body of each county or municipal law enforcement agency. The Town's Department of Public Safety ("HPDPS") has complied with this requirement since its inception in 2001. In alignment with the national dialogue involving law enforcement transparency of operations, the Town engaged an independent consultant, Dr. Alex Del Carmen, to review the data collection process and compile the resulting report. Dr. Del Carmen specializes in racial sensitivity training and bias-based profiling concerning law enforcement. Dr. Del Carmen has performed an independent third-party evaluation of the Department's data, practices, and procedures concerning bias-based contacts from 2014 through 2024. Additionally, he conducts quarterly audits of citations issued to ensure accountability and fairness. Dr. Del Carmen was also engaged to review the Town's Municipal Court operations and recommend best practices to ensure that all defendants are treated equally while disposing of their citations. Following an extensive data review, Dr. Del Carmen presented a detailed review of his findings. He found no items of concern regarding the HPDPS's compliance with state law or significant concerns regarding the operation and oversight of the Municipal Court. In response to a question raised by Mayor Beecherl, Dr. Del Carmen stated that all the data is related to motor vehicle stops only. Mayor Beecherl asked if there were any further questions, to which there were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. *In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.001, et seq., the Town Council will recess into Executive Session (closed meeting) to discuss §551.071: (1) Consultation with Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter, re: (a) multiple town-wide parking strategies and (b) patriotic/ceremonial displays on Town property; and (2) Consultation with Attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offer, re: USAI, LP v. Town of Highland Park - Cause No. DC-20-80213. Mayor Beecherl recessed the study session at 8:34 a.m. and convened in a closed session at 8:34 a.m. Mayor Beecherl ended the closed session at 10:11 a.m. and reconvened the study session in open session at 10:11 a.m. No final action, decision, or vote was taken during the closed session.*

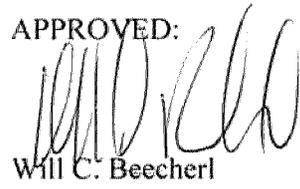
RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

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 motion was made.*

Mayor Beecherl adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

APPROVED on this 15th day of April 2025.

APPROVED:



Will C. Beecherl
Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary