

**Minutes**  
**Grand Prairie City Council - Briefing Session**  
**September 1, 2015**  
**4:30 p.m.**

The City of Grand Prairie City Council convened at 4:30 p.m. on September 1, 2015 in the City Hall Council Briefing Room. The following council members were in attendance:

Mayor Ron Jensen  
Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson  
Council Member Jeff Copeland  
Council Member Richard Fregoe  
Council Member Greg Giessner  
Council Member Tony Shotwell  
Council Member Lila Thorn  
Council Member Jeff Wooldridge

**Call to Order**

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Hart briefed the council on the Lone Star Park announcement. Because of funding from the Texas Racing Commission stopped at midnight last night, live racing and simulcast racing has stopped until the issue is worked out. Lone Star Park is not closed for banquets and the Bar and Book is open just no wagering. Our lobbyist is of the opinion the cease and desist order is not creditable. Mr. Scott Wells with Lone Star Park stated it is their hope it will be worked out in a day or so. Lone Star Park employs 600 for the fall season and we just don't want a delayed decision. It can be critical.

Mayor Jensen stated he has given 4 interviews today with local news agencies. The upcoming Bank of America Championship has been approved by the State Comptroller for funding in the amount of \$250,000 from the State Event Fund in November and if the shutdown does not last long, they are still in. The city concerns and comments have been sent to our state legislators. Our lobbyists are in contact with the Legislative Budget Board, Lt. Governor Patrick, and the Speaker of the House. We are following our lobbyist recommendations.

Council Member Wooldridge stated we are fortunate that we are in the layover season. San Antonio is in a bigger mess than we are.

**Police Safety**

Mr. Hart stated with the news of the police shooting in the Chicago and Houston area and the suspect police shooting in Abilene, he requested Chief Dye to address and update the council. Chief Dye stated Deputy Chief Morris is spearheading the body camera program and testing will start in the next couple of months with vendors. By next year, Chief Dye will give his

recommendations on body cameras. Some factors need to be considered such as the body cameras, lease or purchase, storage, discussion with Mr. Hart for the best recommendation. Chief Dye stated the body cameras will be in 2016 budget year. Mr. Hart stated the decision has been made to fully implement this program at the time we start. Chief Dye stated we will order 200 cameras for officers. We need the cameras, officers want the camera and 99.9% of complaints will go away. Council Member Copeland inquired about privacy issues such as rape. Chief Dye stated that he will not require his officers to record all of the time. The police department will have a policy in place and his officers will be allowed to watch the video prior to assist with their reports. We want our officers to provide the best report.

Chief Dye stated he is sickened by what is happening across the country. Because of lack of respect for our police officers, young people ages 10 – 20 years are not interested in the profession. He stated that he will not waste any more time with people who are not willing to work towards a joint solution. Once the policing fabric breaks down, we are in trouble. Chief Dye stated that he will not tolerate outlandish behavior. People don't act right and parents are not parenting. The police department has spent a lot of time with Grand Prairie kids. The police department needs your support. Next time you see an officer, thank the officer for their service and let them know you appreciate them.

## **Staff Presentations**

### **Update on the Speed Cushion Policy**

Walter Shumac, Director of Transportation, presented an update on the speed cushion policy. Speed cushions, lane markings, speed alert sign and hybrid speed tables fall under traffic calming. Resident(s) approach the city with the initial request for speed cushions. The city determines street classification/operations; performs speed/volume study on the request street and the results are discussed with the citizen. The eligibility requirements must be primarily low density residential dwellings; local residential street; at least 38 feet wide from back to back of curb; only one travel lane in each direction; volumes must be between 500 – 1500 vehicles per day; 85<sup>th</sup> percent speed must exceed 30 mph; and posted speed limit less than 30 mph. On-street citizen petition must be signed by a minimum of 75% of parcels on the requested street agreement and the same petition must have a minimum of 50% of these parcels approve a cushion installation in front of their property.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Clemson requested the cost and price difference between the old type of speed cushion and the new hybrid speed table. Mr. Shumac stated there is no price difference. The cost is approximately \$1400 per cushion. Mr. Shumac discussed the cost sharing program which is between 0% to 95% with the residents. Council Member Copeland inquired on who pays for the cushion. Mr. McCuller, Director of Public Works stated the city bills the person who organized the petition and they collect the funds. Council Member Giessner inquired of all the requests we have had for speed humps, how many have we had to remove. Mr. McCuller stated it is not a high incident, if they put the hump in with a petition, there is no problem. Mr. Hart stated it is a good operating policy. In 16 years, we have only had 1 bad issue regarding speed humps and thanked Mr. Shumac for a good job.

Council Member Shotwell stated in Dallas, they have a process of petitioning for all way stop signs with the same process we use in the city, with an appeal process to the Planning

### **Street Sales Tax Program**

Ron McCuller, Director of Public Works briefed the council on the 2016 Proposed Street Sales Tax Program. The proposed street sales tax program is \$9.8 million dollars, with \$8.4 million recommended for streets; \$1.5 million for miscellaneous projects; \$200,000 for pavement leveling; \$400,000 for striping and median noses; \$500,000 for crack sealing & seal coat program; \$75,000 for Engineering Services; and \$250,000 for small construction projects.

Mr. McCuller stated with the recent council redistricting, if the council members do not like the proposal, Public Works could provide possible substitutes.

Council Member Shotwell stated we need to look at Tarrant Road to Stadium, just past the electrical school and phase replacement to coincide with GPISD construction.

### **Administration Adjudication of Parking Violations**

Megan Mahan, Assistant City Attorney and Deputy Chief Ronnie Morris briefed the council on administration adjudication of parking violations. Ms. Mahan stated they have reviewed all parking processing criminal vs. civil parking tickets. Chief Morris stated to make it easier for the city; citizens can call in and report parking violations. GPPD has 4 public safety officers assigned to enforcement and it is part of their daily duty to issue citations. Parking violation calls are low priority. Ms. Mahan stated we are changing parking violations from criminal to a civil offense. For the first couple of months of the program, warning tickets will be written and then tickets will be written.

### **Other Business:**

Mayor Jensen briefed the council on conversations with our lobbyist regarding the Texas Racing Commission funding for Lone Star Park for the next 3 months. Lone Star Park operations have been shut down for one day. It is the opinion of our lobbyist and Global Gaming that something should be worked out soon. The issue seems to be in the Senate. Mayor Jensen has conducted 4 interviews today with KRLF, The Thoroughbred Association, WBAP and Channel 11. Mayor Jensen stated long term, we have a \$70 million asset in Grand Prairie and we are in competition with surrounding states, and things need to change. Mr. Hart stated Lone Star Parks employs 200 employees and during racing season employs 600 employees. We have a \$73 million investment that has brought in \$30 million for city buildings. The city needs the change.

### **Recess Meeting**

Mayor Jensen recessed the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

**6:30 p.m. Council Chambers****Mayor Jensen reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.**

Rev. Freddy Carrasquillo, Iglesia Renovacion Espiritual gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to US Flag and to the Texas Flag were led by Council Member Wooldridge.

**Presentations**

- 1 Recognition of Keep Texas Beautiful Award Winners – Presented by Amanda Lindbergh, Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful Coordinator

Receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Sadie Ray Graff Educators and Educational Institution Awards for School District was the Grand Prairie Independent School District represented by Brenda Townsend.

Receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Sadie Ray Graff Educators and Educational Institution Awards for Volunteer was Pat Hayton

Receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Said Ray Graff Educators and Educational Institution Awards for Elementary School was Austin Elementary represented by Jennifer Ward and Miguel Tapia.

Receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Male in the O.P. Schnabel Lifetime Achieve Award was Bill Clark of Grand Prairie with over 47,000 volunteer hours.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Pro Tem Swafford moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Clemson to approve Items 5 – 14. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes : 9 Mayor Ron Jensen; Council Member Richard Fregoe; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson; Council Member Jeff Copeland; Council Member Greg Giessner; Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford; Council Member Lila Thorn and Council Member Jeff Wooldridge

- 2 **Minutes of the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting**

Approved on the Consent Agenda

- 3 **Price agreement for animal vaccines and medical supplies for the animal shelter and spay/neuter clinic from Midwest Veterinary Supply in the amount of \$150,000 annually, for one year with the option to renew for four additional one year periods totaling \$750,000 if all extensions are exercised; and authorized the City Manager to**

**execute the renewal options with aggregate price fluctuations of the lesser of up to \$50,000 or 25% of the original maximum price so long as sufficient funding is appropriated by the City Council to satisfy the City's obligation during the renewal terms; and reject the original bids for animal vaccines and medical supplies bid #15086 and #15124**

Approved on the Consent Agenda

- 7     **Price agreement for microchips for Animal Services from Found Animals Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$15,790 annually, for one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods totaling \$78,950 if all extensions are exercised; and authorize the City Manager to execute the renewal options with aggregate price fluctuations of the lesser of up to \$50,000 or 25% of the original maximum price so long as sufficient funding is appropriated by the City Council to satisfy the City's obligation during the renewal terms**

Approved on the Consent Agenda

- 8     **Longitudinal Pipeline License Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad for Encroachment on the Railroad Right-of-Way**

Approved on the Consent Agenda

- 9     **Construction contract to Mart, Inc. in the amount of \$227,700 for Security Upgrades at the City's Municipal Courts facility, plus a 5% construction contingency in the amount of \$11,385 for a total request of \$239,085**

Approved on the Consent Agenda

- 10    **Resolution authorizing publication of Notice of Intent to Issue Certificates of Obligation**

Adopted

- 11    **Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a Selective Traffic Enforcement (STEP) grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the enforcement of safety belt, child safety seat, speed, intersection traffic control, distracted driving and DWI laws in the amount of \$379,219.68**

Adopted

- 12    **Resolution declaring expectation to reimburse expenditures with proceeds of future debt in the amount of \$263,500 for engineering and surveying services contract with KSA Engineers, Inc. for Waterwood Drive Extension from Arkansas Lane to north of Warrior Trail, for Drainage, Water and Wastewater**

**Improvements in the total amount of \$263,500**

Adopted

- 13 **Ordinance amending the FY 2014/2015 Capital Improvements Projects Budget; Engineering and surveying services contract with KSA Engineers, Inc. for Waterwood Drive Extension from Arkansas Lane to north of Warrior Trail, for Drainage, Water and Wastewater Improvements in the total amount of \$263,500**

Adopted

- 14 **An ordinance amending Chapter 25, "TRAFFIC" of the Code of Ordinance by the addition of Article VII, Administrative Adjudication of Parking Violations, by creating a civil penalty for certain parking offenses, providing a fine of \$75 for each offense in violation of the ordinance**

Adopted

**Items for Individual Consideration**

- 15 **A-06-14 - Annexation - Hunter Ferrell Road & MacArthur Boulevard (City Council District 1). Consider adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Grand Prairie and Irving AND adoption of a Resolution outlining the timetable for annexation of a portion of Hunter Ferrell Road located between S. Belt Line Road and a portion of the MacArthur Boulevard located between Hunter Ferrell Road and the south side of the new MacArthur Boulevard bridge to establish the mutual municipal boundary line, along said section of roadways, between the City of Grand Prairie, Texas and the City of Irving, Texas. The owner/applicant is The City of Grand Prairie Planning Department. (This item was tabled at the 8-16-2015 Council Meeting.)**

Jim Hinderaker briefed the council on the annexation of the orphan roads. Mr. Hinderaker requested approval to move forward with the annexation and to balance with the Hunter Ferrell bridge completion. The annexation will go into effect within 90 days of completion of the bridge. The city of Grand Prairie will assume the Hunter Ferrell bridge and will do maintenance. The city of Irving will complete the MOU in September. Until both cities adopt the MOU is not in effect. Mr. Hinderaker stated the item is on their agenda for approval and he does not expect problems.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Clemson moved, seconded by Council Member Thorn to approve Item 15, Annexation Hunter Ferrell Road & MacArthur Boulevard.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes : 9 Mayor Ron Jensen; Council Member Richard Fregoe; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson; Council Member Jeff Copeland;

Council Member Greg Giessner; Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford; Council Member Lila Thorn and Council Member Jeff Wooldridge

Mayor Pro Tem Swafford moved, seconded by Council Member Giessner, to close the public hearings for Items 16, 17, and 18. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes : 9 Mayor Ron Jensen; Council Member Richard Fregoe; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson; Council Member Jeff Copeland; Council Member Greg Giessner; Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford; Council Member Lila Thorn and Council Member Jeff Wooldridge

**16 Second Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate - Hold the Second Public Hearing seeking citizen comments on Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.669998 per \$100 assessed valuation in accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code**

No citizen comments.  
Presented

**17 First Public Hearing on the FY 2015/2016 Operating Budgets**

No citizen comments.  
Presented

**18 First Public Hearing on the FY 2015/2016 Capital Improvement Projects Budgets**

No citizens comments.  
Presented

**19 Public Hearing - Resolution to Create Robinson Public Improvement District No. 17 (City Council District 6)**

Lee Harriss briefed the council on the creation of Robinson PID. 62.6% owners of the appraised value of taxable property and 61.1% owners signed the petition for the creation of the PID. The first year budget is \$10,994 budget. There are 36 properties, covering 10.9 acres. The assessment rate is \$0.16 per \$100 appraised value with the average appraisal value of \$214,888. The average assessment will be \$344 each year.

The following citizens submitted cards in support of this item: Steve Sieben, 903 Luxor Ct.; Mary Cleve, 843 Luxor Ct.; and Tomika Webb, 839 Luxor Ct.

Deborah Moore, 1211 Gaines Mills Road, President West Creek Homeowner Association spoke in opposition of the proposed PID. Ms. Moore stated they have been working hard to improve the community through fencing projects, irrigation, landscaping and code enforcement. The majority of the community does not want the PID. Ms. Moore is concerned the residents have a hard time playing their HOA dues and does not want an additional PID fee.

Kyle Davis, 4312 Anthony Lane, Grand Prairie spoke in opposition of the proposed PID. The \$350.00 per year is a very large tax for maintaining grass. This fee is more than I spend on my lawn and haircuts. Mr. Davis' stated that a better option would let the HOA manages and not create a PID.

James Sczymanski, 4308 Anthony Lane, Grand Prairie spoke in opposition of the proposed PID and questioned the number of signatures. Mr. Sczymanski stated he has signatures from 19 homeowners in the area against the PID. Mayor Jensen inquired on the number of residents. Mr. Sczymanski stated 36 homes.

Ms. Harriss stated 22 homes signed the petition in the favor. Mr. Sczymanski stated there is a discrepancy. City Manager Tom Hart recommended tabling the item.

Council Member Wooldridge made the motion to table the item, Council Member Fregoe seconded.

Ayes : 9 Mayor Ron Jensen; Council Member Richard Fregoe; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson; Council Member Jeff Copeland; Council Member Greg Giessner; Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford; Council Member Lila Thorn and Council Member Jeff Wooldridge

## 20      **2016 Council Meeting Calendar**

Council Member Lila Thorn moved, seconded by Council Member Wooldridge to adopt the 2016 Council Meeting Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes : 9 Mayor Ron Jensen; Council Member Richard Fregoe; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson; Council Member Jeff Copeland; Council Member Greg Giessner; Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford; Council Member Lila Thorn and Council Member Jeff Wooldridge

## 21      **Board and Commission Appointments**

No Board and Commission appointments were made.

## 22      **Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

## **Adjournment:**

Mayor Jensen welcomed and recognized the Boy Scout Troop 533.



Mayor Jensen stated the city has heard from the Governor's office. The Governor's office has reached an agreement with the Texas Racing Commission extending funding for Lone Star Park for 3 months. Lone Star Park was closed for one day and should be back to business tomorrow.

Mayor Pro Tem Swafford made the motion to adjourn. Mayor Jensen adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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Pat Marcum, Recording Secretary