



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Clemson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson
Council Member Jacquin Headen
Council Member Bessye Adams

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. 32nd Quarterly Judicial Report

Presiding Judge Bryan Arnold highlighted that the statistics remain consistent across the board. To ensure the safety of individuals and the community, a mental health assessment is conducted in November and February for inmates whose mental capacity is in question. This assessment enables medical experts to provide proper care and support to those who require it. Additionally, interlock devices are installed on vehicles to prevent them from operating, thereby, reducing the risk of accidents caused due to driving under the influence. Judge Arnold has made himself available to answer any questions related to these measures.

2. Police Department 2023 Summary

Daniel Scesney, Police Chief presented to the Council Committee a review of our crime-fighting efforts and was proud to say that they are an evidence-based police department. He spoke of their unique strategy being unparalleled and noted that we are currently the 4th safest city in Texas. Last year, we were ranked 8th, but we have now moved to one of the top spots in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and 34th in America.

Despite the increase in population, our crime rate has decreased significantly. We have achieved an overall force reduction of 35%, a 77% reduction in officer injuries, and a 55% reduction in force used after control attempts. Additionally, suspect injuries have been reduced by 20%. Our police officers are certified in GPPD Jiu Jitsu force and safety, and our primary focus is on fighting offenses through comprehensive and unified strategies. We strive to get ahead of the problem before it takes hold of the community.

We are currently reviewing data from our PowerPoint presentation, which is stored in the M Drive. During a recent meeting, Chairwoman Clemson expressed her appreciation for our tactics, which prioritize prevention over crisis management. When asked why we are behind Carrollton and the other three cities, CS suggested that it may be due to the fact that we are surrounded by more suburbs and smaller cities than they are.

3. Fire Department 2023 Summary

Robert Fite, Fire Chief, presented some statistics to the Committee regarding the Fire and Emergency Management Department. In 2023, the department received 15,186 EMS calls and 6,347 non-EMS calls. Out of the total calls, 70.5% were EMS and 29.5% were non-EMS (fire). There were 568 fires, with a total property value involved in a fire amounting to \$313,655,186. The department saved \$299,292,457 in property value and lost \$14,362,728, saving 95.42% of the property. The department administered 4,040 medications, and 6,599 IVs, and placed 143 advanced airways at Medical City Arlington, Arlington Memorial, Methodist Mansfield, Baylor Irving, Methodist Dallas, Children's Medical Center, and Medical City Grand Prairie. They also completed 1,324 inspections, 98 demonstration and station tours with UTA and Texas Intercollegiate Press Association, and the Training Division provided an average of 200 hours per member. The hazmat, Public Safety Dive Team, and Swift Water teams handled 256 hazmat cases, while the Wildland Deployments worked for 8,640 hours, including Eastland Complex Fire, First Out of State and Federal Deployment, and Louisiana. As of 2024, the department has deployed 5,688 hours at the Texas Panhandle. The department has received over \$1 million in State and Federal Grants for Emergency Management. They received the American Heart Association and held an ISO 1 Rating. Council Member Headen asked the Chief if the EMS was required to wait with a patient who was waiting at the hospital's wall. The Chief confirmed that they have to wait unless they see that it isn't a real emergency, and they can sign them off and leave them to triage.

4. Presentation related to safety railing or netting around the Epic Pond at EpicCentral

Deputy City Manager Cheryl De Leon updated the Council Committee on Epic Central safety railing. Some barriers that they have to consider are: landscape, steps, retaining walls, trees, and current railing, we wanted to get the committee's discussion on concerns: a safety perspective but not to esthetically take away from anything. Concerns about children and potential danger of falling into the water. The issue is making sure that everyone is safe, and we retain the beauty of it. Chief Fite also confirmed that there had been a few incidents that were concerning. Ms. De Leon stated we need to look at some netting or railing and get you a few costs to review.

CONSENT AGENDA

Citizens may speak for five minutes on any item on the agenda by completing and submitting a speaker card.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council made by Council Member Headen, seconded by Council Member Adams, to approve consent agenda items 5 through nine. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Adams, Council Member Headen. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

5. Minutes of March 4, 2024, Public Safety, Health, and Environment Committee Meeting

Approved on Consent Agenda

6. Annual maintenance agreement with Mass Notification Services, a sole source provider, in the amount of \$19,500.00 in year one for a six-month contract and \$39,000.00 in years two through five for maintenance of the city Outdoor Warning Siren network. The annual maintenance agreement with Mass Notification Services will be \$19,500.00 for six months

and \$39,000.00 for Years two through five, totaling \$175,500.00 if all extensions are exercised

Approved on Consent Agenda

7. **Annual contract for inspection, cleaning, and repair of firefighter bunker gear from Gear Cleaning Solutions, LLC (\$75,000 annually) through a master interlocal agreement with the City of Allen. This agreement is for one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods totaling \$375,000 if all extensions are exercised**

Approved on Consent Agenda

8. **Purchase of two Pentheon battery-operated rescue tools including ram, spreader, and cutter and all accessories from Siddons-Martin Emergency Group, LLC for the price of \$93,850.22 through a Master Cooperative contract with Buyboard**

Approved on Consent Agenda

9. **IT Department contracts for the new construction project for Fire Station 11 in the amount of \$140,050.04 for the direct vendor contracts with Siemens Industry, Inc., Cyson Technology Group LLC, and Flair Data (Porter Burgess). The contract with Siemens Industry, Inc. will be used for security installation door access control, video surveillance and intercom. The contract with Cyson Technology Group LLC will be used for network structuring, which includes voice and data wiring. The contract with Flair Data (Porter Burgess) will be used to purchase switches to provide connectivity to all devices**

Approved on Consent Agenda

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

10. **Ordinance appointing Bryan Arnold, Presiding Judge; Ann Draper, Associate Judge; and William Mazur, Jr., Frank Hagle, Glenn Holley, and Ann Poston as Alternate Judges of the Grand Prairie Municipal Court effective April 1, 2024**

Deputy City Manager Megan Mahan spoke with the Committee on the need for an Ordinance to ensure consistency in judicial appointments, the staff decided in 2020 to bring forth all judicial appointments simultaneously and include all judges, Presiding, Associate, and Alternate, in one ordinance. On April 4, 2016, Judge Arnold was appointed as Presiding Judge, and his most recent reappointment was on April 1, 2022. On August 12, 2022, Judge Ann Draper was appointed Associate Judge. William Mazur, Jr., Frank Hagle, Glenn Holley, and Ann Poston have each served multiple terms as Associate and/or Alternate Judges. This ordinance will appoint all judges for the Municipal Court and will be effective from April 1, 2024.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Adams, seconded by Council Member Headen. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

11. **Annual Contract for quality assurance review of the Police Department's Emergency Communications Division's call handling, dispatch performance, and radio transmission**

processes with Denise Amber Lee Foundation, Inc., in an annual amount not to exceed \$100,000. The agreement will be for one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods totaling a not-to-exceed amount of \$500,000.00 if all extensions are exercised.

Aubrey Insko, the Emergency Communications Manager, explained to the Council Committee, why the department is seeking a contractual service. The service is aimed at ensuring that the department delivers the best possible service to citizens who require first-responder assistance. The department is looking for a quality assurance review of the Emergency Communications Division's call handling, dispatch performance, and radio transmission processes. The review will ensure compliance with established departmental policies, procedures, protocols, directives, and industry standards. Council Member Adams asked Ms. Insko if the evaluations are around 3800 reviews and if they include online training. Ms. Insko clarified that they only do evaluations and not training.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Headen, seconded by Council Member Adams. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

- 12. Ordinance amending the FY 2023/2024 Capital Improvements Projects budget in the Municipal Facilities CIP Fund; Fire Station 11 independent third-party owner construction testing contract with CMJ Engineering in the amount of \$98,592.55; low voltage direct contract allowance in the amount of \$140,050.04 and an owner-controlled construction contingency in the amount of \$161,357.41 for a total added funding request of \$400,000.00**

Andy Henning, Director of Design and Construction updated the Council Committee concerning the amendment of an ordinance for the approval of \$400,000 in additional funding for the Fire Station 11 project reflecting the value of the increased scope of work associated with the requested community room addition as follows: \$150,000 is available by approving an ordinance transferring and appropriating from the Capital Reserve Fund to the Municipal Facilities CIP Fund, and \$250,000 is available in the unobligated fund balance in the Municipal Facilities CIP Fund. This is adding the community room to the Fires Station vs. placing it separate for the growth taking place in the southern area. Council Member Headen asked what is the purpose of the community room, is it open to anyone. Chief Fite informed her that it would be for town halls, community meetings, and civic or HOA meetings. Additionally, he mentioned that it also helps us have a meeting and training space for neighboring cities.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Adams, seconded by Council Member Headen. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

- 13. Ordinance amending the FY 2023/2024 Approved Budget for the Library CIP Fund to allocate \$420,068 from the Capital Reserve Fund unobligated balance for costs associated with the purchase of two (2) new Ram 5500 Bookmobiles for the Library (\$435,034 each and a \$50,000 contingency) for a total of \$920,068 from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles located in Irving, Texas through a Cooperative Agreement with Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC)**

Peter Sime, Library Director discussed with the Council Committee the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Library CIP Fund budget. It included \$500,000 for the purchase of two mobile library vehicles to be added to the fleet as improvements for the library per the city replacement/improvement schedule. These mobile libraries will be advantageous to the citizens of the city as we aim to bridge the digital divide by extending essential library services for those who live beyond a convenient distance from the three branch locations. The vehicles will make regular stops in all council districts and allow the library to have a presence at community events. The vehicles are being sourced from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles located in Irving, TX. There are currently no electric vehicles that meet the duty requirements and needs fulfilled by these units. The vehicles are: two new Ram 5500 with Allstar XL Bookmobile Body, \$435,034 each, to offset overages associated with the acquisition and maintenance of these vehicles we request a budget increase of \$420,068, which includes a \$50,000 contingency, for a total project cost of \$920,068. State Purchasing laws, Government Code, Chapter 271.102 authorize local governments to enter joining contracts and cooperative agreements for the performance of governmental functions normally associated with the operation of government such as purchasing necessary materials and supplies.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Headen, seconded by Council Member Adams. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

- 14. Annual contract for yard waste grinding from Thelin Recycling Company, LP., in an amount not to exceed \$259,000.00 annually. This contract will be for one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods totaling \$1,295,000.00 if all extensions are exercised. Award a secondary price agreement to LETCO Group, LLC (up to \$343,000,000.00 annually) to be used if the primary is unable to fulfill the needs of the department**

Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Director of the Solid Waste and Recycling Department provided an update to the Council Committee regarding the services of Thelin Recycling Company, LP - a yard waste grinding company. The company helps the city by processing over 100,000 cubic yards of brush, limbs, and stumps that are received annually at the Grand Prairie Landfill from the community. This material is ground and used for side-slope dressing, and wet-weather access. The city hosts approximately 5 grinding events per year, which last for approximately one week. This agreement includes the cost of these insured grinding events.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Adams, seconded by Council Member Headen. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

- 15. Annual contract for street sweeping services to Sweeping Corporation of America, LLC for up to \$141,678.79 annually. This contract will be for one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods totaling \$708,393.95 if all extensions are exercised**

Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Director of the Solid Waste and Recycling Department discussed with the Council Committee an annual contract that will provide twenty-four sweeping events for the City's business district, for sweeping of thoroughfares and collectors six times per year, and for special event sweeping such as pre- or post-event parade route sweeping. Funding is provided in the Solid Waste and Recycling approved operations budget.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Headen, seconded by Council Member Adams. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

16. Approve grant submittal to the Department of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for \$220,600 for energy conservation projects

Cindy Mendez, Public Health and Environmental Quality Director along with Jody Cason, Environmental Quality Manager spoke with the Committee regarding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. It is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. This program was funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. On March 6, 2023, the Public Health & Environmental Quality Department presented the grant pre-application request to the Public Health, Safety, and Environmental Committee and was subsequently approved by the City Council on March 21, 2023. Under this grant program, the City of Grand Prairie was allocated \$220,600 based on population to implement strategies to reduce or improve energy efficiency in the transportation and building sectors. The application for projects will be due April 30, 2024.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Adams, seconded by Council Member Headen. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

17. Annual contract for the testing, repair, and replacement of backflow valves with Mr. Backflow, LLC dba 1-A Fire & Domestic Testing in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 annually. This contract will be for one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods totaling \$250,000 if all extensions are exercised

Cindy Mendez, Public Health and Environmental Quality Director discussed the Environmental Quality Division's role in ensuring compliance with the Rules & Regulations for Community Water Systems. This requires that all backflow valves are tested annually and are in proper working order to protect the city's water system from the backflow of non-potable water. The division plans to award a contract to a contractor who can test, repair, or replace as needed, backflow devices at city-owned facilities.

Motion to recommend approval to City Council by Council Member Headen, seconded by Council Member Adams. Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Headen, Council Member Adams. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Clemson adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the May 13, 2024, Public Safety, Health, and Environment Committee meeting.



Jorja Clemson, Chairwoman