



## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson  
Council Member Dennis King  
Council Member Junior Ezeonu

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes passed unanimously.

2. **Briefing on City Fireworks Ordinance**

Police Chief Daniel Scesney along with Fire Chief Robert Fite briefed the committee on this item. The issues we are facing with fireworks being shot in our city is that anyone 16 years of age or older can purchase professional fireworks. It is a very easy process to obtain a permit to set up a fireworks stand in the county and sell these professional fireworks. We had a 1200% increase in fireworks calls into dispatch this year. We also had some employees from the fire department patrolling areas in Grand Prairie to talk with people about the fireworks. The police department seized about 4X the amount of fireworks than normal. The city ordinance has competitive fines and I don't think raising the fines is the answer. Although if we wanted to look into that Judge Arnold can make that decision. The Police Department posted about fireworks being illegal in the city limits on social media but next year we will work on stronger language and a video in order to get our point across a little better.

3. **Briefing on National Night Out Kickoff**

Public Information Officer Chelsea Kretz briefed the committee on this item. This year we are trying to get the community back into the groove of National Night Out and let everyone know that we are going back to the block. Registration is open online and we are also having a Kick Off Party Saturday, August 28th on the Epic Lawn. This is a free event for people to attend in which there will be food trucks, Pet adoptions and a lot of our local organizations out to educate the public on the different opportunities. No further.

#### 4. **Smoking Ordinance Comparisons**

Senior Environmental Specialist Werner Rodriguez briefed the committee on this item. Several years ago we updated the smoking ordinance, but grandfathered some businesses in. This didn't get us to where we want to be which is 100% smoke free. Smoking is the #2 killer in the world so we are really looking at this ordinance due to the health factors. Currently the smoking ordinance does not allow smoking in public places but does allow smoking in tobacco shops, stand alone bars, private clubs, hotels and motels with designated rooms, Lone Star Park, outdoor dining areas, bowling centers, bingo parlors, places of employment and Loyd Park campsites, Lynn Creek Park and on course areas of city golf facilities. Over recent years the smoking ordinances in Texas have become more restrictive. Staff recommendations is to require the grandfathered businesses to be non smoking, which would make Grand Prairie 100% smoke free. Council Member Junior agrees due to the health issues. This item will also be on the City Council Agenda in September.

#### 5. **SNC210801 – Street Name Change – NW 19th Street and SW 19th Street to M L King Jr Blvd (City Council District 1 & 5). Street Name Change request to change NW 19th Street and SW 19th Street to M L King Jr Blvd**

Deputy City Manager Bill Hills briefed this committee on this item. The street name change was brought to Mr. Hills by Mayor Jensen, Council Member Jorja Clemson and Dr. Denny Davis. There was a meeting last Thursday to discuss the street name change and the attendees to include the City Streets Department and all the area pastors were all in agreeance that 19th street should be the street that receives the name change. This street dead ends into David Daniels Elementary who has the first black principal in the school district and is the gateway into the Dalworth Community which was the first black settlement in Grand Prairie. On August 5th at the Dalworth Recreation Center there will be a public meeting to introduce this to the community. We will also go over the design of the street sign that will be in accordance with city requirements. Martin Luther King will be spelled out on the street sign and there will be a "N" for North and "S" for South to keep that designation. We have also sent letters out to the community to notify of any businesses/residents that will be affected by address changes. City Council will have a public hearing on August 17th to announce the new street name. There will be a dedication ceremony on August 28th at David Daniels Elementary for everyone in the Community to attend. All board members are in favor of this street name change. No further.

#### 6. **A public hearing regarding the FY 2020 CARES Act Grant to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a change to the scope of Fiscal Year 2020 grant application with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for \$3,852,325 for operating/capital for vehicle for hire service. The City will provide no matching requirement of the \$3,852,325. The total budget to operate the vehicle for hire is 3,852,325 for one or more years**

Director of Transportation Walter Shumac introduced Tony Flowers who is leading this project. Information on a microtransit/ride share program, also known as VIA was discussed with the understanding that it will not interfere or replace Grand Connection in any way. We have been looking at public transportation in Grand Prairie for over 20 years. VIA is being used in over 700 cities to include Arlington who averages 50,000 to 70,000 trips per year. The Government has allotted Grand Prairie to receive 3.8 million dollars for transportation for hire which will further our charter system. The VIA program is for anyone in the city to use, not just

senior citizens and will also travel outside the city to surrounding Universities and Hospitals. The most common age group to use VIA is between 18 and 35 years. The City of Grand Prairie does not have to pay anything out of pocket for this program. We will need the City Manager and City Council to approve the change of scope of the funding from Operating Costs to Operating/Capital Costs. IF we use 10 VIA units to operate in Grand Prairie the cost will be 1.8 million dollars, if we add 5 units it will cost us 2.6 million. Since this is our first year we are going to go with 10 VIA units to see how it goes, but we can always add more if needed. Cost per ride each way is \$3.50 to \$4.00 and service hours are Monday thru Saturday 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. We have to use this CARES act money or we lose it in 2023, after the money is gone we will apply for a 80/20 grant in which the government will pay for 80 percent and the City of Grand Prairie will pay for 20% of the next year VIA usage. Staff presentation to Council will be September 7th.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

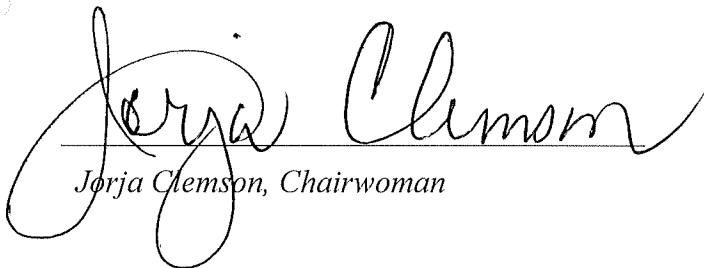
There was no executive session.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.



*Jorja Clemson, Chairwoman*

