



CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE
PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE

CITY HALL - COUNCIL BRIEFING ROOM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2022 AT 3:03 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson
Council Member Junior Ezeonu
Council Member Jacquin Headen

AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Minutes of the November 7, 2022 Public Safety, Health, Environment Committee Meeting

No discussion. Minutes approved as is.

Motion made by Council Member Ezeonu, Seconded by Council Member Headen.
Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Ezeonu, Council Member Headen

2. 28th Quarterly Judicial Report

Judge Bryan Arnold briefed the committee on this item. The numbers from November of 2021 through October of 2022 are attached to the agenda. We have talked about all the numbers previously, so if we do not have any discussion on those numbers we will move on to Child Bond Conditions. This is something new that a judge has to sign when a child 18 years old or younger is a victim of a crime, to include indecency of a child, assault offenses both sexual or non-sexual in nature. The defendant is prohibited from having any contact with the victim at home, daycare or school. In the future, we will have a running 12 months of statistics when we bring this item to this committee. Judge Arnold introduced Judge Ann Draper that has been with the city for a couple of months. No further questions.

3. Air North Texas 2022 Award / 2022 Report to North Central Texas Council of Governments

Director of Public Health & Environmental Quality Cindy Mendez briefed the committee on this item. The City of Grand Prairie was awarded "Partner of the Year" for the 9th time since joining Air North Texas in 2009. The City of Grand Prairie has many initiatives to help improve the air quality in North Texas to include our city ordinance which prohibits vehicle

idling no more than five minutes, leak monitoring at gas wells, greenhouse gas inventory, sustainability planning, electric vehicles and Air North Texas Partnership. We also do a lot of public education on how we can each do our part to keep the air clean via social media, city wide newsletters, we work with our School District Science Teachers, advertise on billboards and attend city events. There are ten North Texas Counties that will move from moderate non-attainment to severe non-attainment which includes the county that Grand Prairie is in. There are certain penalties to that like some businesses not wanting to move to our area, but it also depends on transportation funding, speed limits and types of permits that industries have to meet. In the beginning of 2023, we will get more information on when our area will be declared severe non-attainment.

4. Presentation regarding changes to Chapter 5, “Animal Services”, of the City of Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances, regarding public nuisance dogs and dangerous dogs

Animal Services Division Manager Lily Yap briefed the committee on this item. We are proposing changes to Section 5.17, 5.56, 5.67, 5.68 and 5.69 of the City of Grand Prairie Animal Services Code of Ordinances. Currently it states, "animal on animal, dangerous animal", but we would like it to be changed to "animal on human, dangerous dog." Pending edits will change "search warrant" to "seizure warrant", timeline for compliance or disposition eligibility. We are looking to add Public Nuisance declaration of a dog, which is completely new. The pet owner would have to put a sign in their yard warning others that there is a nuisance dog on premise depending on what level 1, 2 or 3, their dog is at. A pet owner may appeal a public nuisance declaration within 15 days to our municipal court, and the decision of the court is final. Level 1 or 2 dogs without further incident within a year and level 3 dogs without further incident within two years can be reclassified. We wanted to add this piece because we didn't want to punish the pet owners, we want to get the dogs back to them if possible, but also make sure the seriousness of the situation is understood. It was also discussed to add a dog trainer position to the Animal Shelter to help in a multitude of ways, including getting dogs returned to their owners safely. Judge Arnold spoke on this item and explained their options are very black and white, either the dog goes back to the owner, or the dog is put down. He would like to have more options on nuisance dogs and dangerous dogs. There is also an option to move the dog outside of the city limits. Assistant City Attorney Tiffany Bull explained that the new city ordinance would comply with state law.

Citizen Comment: Steve Stoecker spoke in support of this item and liked the idea of having signs up about dangerous dogs on the properties of those that have a nuisance dog.

Junior motioned to approve this item with the recommendation to include a 30-day compliance window for a level 1 or 2 dog.

Motion made by Council Member Ezeonu, Seconded by Council Member Headen.
Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Ezeonu, Council Member Headen

5. Ordinance Amending Chapter 17 “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions” of the Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances to prohibit unlawful possession of catalytic converters and providing exceptions; providing a penalty clause, a savings clause and a severability clause; and providing an effective date upon passage

Assistant City Attorney Tiffany Bull briefed the committee on this item. Deputy Chief Brad Leonard was also present to answer any questions. There has been a significant increase

nationwide in catalytic converter thefts due to three precious metals that are inside of it. In 2019 there were 3,389 thefts, in 2020 there were 14,433 thefts of catalytic converters. Last year we added strict requirements to the Metal Recycling City Ordinance, but this is still an ongoing issue. We are now looking to add an offense for possessing a catalytic converter that has been cut instead of unbolted from a vehicle. This would be a Class C Misdemeanor in Texas if passed. There are exceptions for vehicle facilities/salvage yards, an individual owner working on their own vehicle, or a transport company. There must be an invoice or document showing the name, address and phone number for the entity transporting a catalytic converter, the number of catalytic converters they are transporting and the name, address and phone number of the entity accepting the catalytic converter. We also want to make it an offense to cause or conceal a violation of possession of a catalytic converter due to fraudulent documents. The possession of each catalytic converter would be a separate crime. This ordinance revision and addition will allow police to seize the catalytic converters. This could lead to solving crimes that have taken place in our city. This item will go before City Council on December 13th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizens may speak during Citizen Comments for up to five minutes on any item not on the agenda by completing and submitting a speaker card.

Citizen Comment from Steve Stoecker, Address 700 Timberoaks Ln.

He spoke about an incident on the night of a full moon regarding a dog attack while he was walking down the street. He noticed two exotic breed dogs and one got hit by a car and ultimately died. He recommended lowering the residential street speed limit since we have many electric vehicles now and they are very quiet. He never heard the car coming and thinks this could happen more in the future. Chairperson Clemson advised Steve to get with Cheryl De Leon at the end of the meeting to discuss things that can happen with his suggestion.

ADJOURNMENT

4:32 p.m.



Jorja Clemson, Chairwoman