



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

CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022 AT 3:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson
Council Member Dennis King
Council Member Junior Ezeonu

AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. **December 6th Public Safety, Health and Environmental Meeting Minutes**

Minutes approved as presented.

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

2. **Ordinance Amending Chapter 13, “Health and Sanitation” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, by replacing the provisions of Article IV “Air Pollution Control” in their entirety with new regulations**

Jody Cason briefed the committee on this item. The current ordinance is over a decade old and doesn't align with the current state rules. There has been verbiage added and some enforcement action will be added that would include the police department. Due to the technical nature of this ordinance and all of the air quality rules we engaged our environmental consultant of Modern Geo-sciences Dr. Kenneth Tran. Dr. Tran took over the presentation and explained this new ordinance will follow state and federal rules and also align with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality(TCEQ). Specifically motor vehicle idling is addressed in the new ordinance with exclusions for vehicles over 14,000 pounds. Dr. Tran also explained that there are monitors that can be put out to monitor the air quality in areas to make sure that businesses are following the rules and we can also collect data from them.

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

3. **FY 22 Airport Pavement Safety Brief**

Airport Director Mark Divita briefed the committee on this item. He explained what Foreign Object Debris (FOD) is and the dangers it can be to an aircraft and people. Every time we take grant money from the FAA they have grant assurances that include a Pavement Maintenance Program and Operations & Maintenance Mandate which means we have to keep all FOD off the runways, taxi ways and ramps. Grand Prairie Municipal Airport does a daily check for FOD and we do a FOD sweep every month. We also do a monthly concrete and asphalt pavement inspection and Mr. Divita does an annual inspection in which they rate the distress it may have and take immediate action on getting that repaired. FAA pays for 90% of the repairs and the Streets Department has a contract with a company that makes the repairs. Informational Only.

4. **Code Compliance Administrative Adjudication Process**

Assistant Director of Police Ryan Simpson briefed the committee on this item. Today we are looking for feedback from this committee and will go to City Council next week, we will also bring a purchase and ordinance revision to City Council February 1st. Currently Code Compliance uses a criminal process for violation citations which includes a significant amount of case prep work, assuming that each case will go to court. This process takes 2-3 hours per citation for Code Compliance Officers and additional time that the court employees spend on each citation. We are looking to improve this process to save staff time by moving to an administrative or civil process, which is a considerable time saver for staff. There will still be an option for criminal process if we deem that necessary. How this process will work is when the citizen receives a violation, they can chose to pay the penalty and staff will follow up to make sure the citizen has come into compliance or they can appeal the citation and request a hearing. There are three different outcomes not guilty, found liable or found liable with deferred penalty which gives the citizen time to come into compliance without paying the fine. If the citizen gets the deferred penalty option then a follow up compliance hearing will be set and the hearing examiner will determine if the citizen came into compliance. If the citizen ignores the citations the city can opt to take no action or send it to collections. In the new proposed ordinance, it explains the amount of the civil fine cannot exceed 75% of the equal criminal fine. We do have the flexibility to increase the fine amount for repeat offenders if we stay within the 75% fine amount. The goal is to get citizen compliance and not hammer them with fines. Citizens can appeal a citation within 30 days and these will go like the Red Light Camera appeals, we will have a retired Code or Police Employee to oversee these appeals. We have looked at using T2Systems which will provide ticket writers to all Code Compliance Officers and will send out all notices to citizens and the company information will be on all the citations given out. T2Systems charges a 16% commission on the revenues we actually receive. Informational Only.

5. **Bi-Lingual Library Classes - Citizenship**

Library Program Supervisor Caitlin Milligan and Programmer Isela Mena briefed the committee on this item. The Library has many programs for all ages including early childhood education which targets parents and children. We have opportunities for people to get their GED and also US Citizenship classes. Many teens hangout at the library after school which gives Ms. Mena time to spend with them and also provides opportunities to mentor and keep these children off the streets. We market these programs through social media, place an ad in

Live Grand Newsletter through the Parks Department, and partnerships within the city and surrounding cities. Informational Only.

6. Outdoor Warning Siren Presentation

Emergency Management Coordinator Chase Wheeler briefed the committee on this item. Grand Prairie has 26 outdoor sirens throughout the city and 3 flood warning sirens. If you are outside anywhere in the city you should be able to hear a siren if they are activated. We have Solar Sirens and DC Powered Sirens, some of the sirens we couldn't get power to so they are equipped with solar power. When people say they cannot hear the monthly siren test, we always ask first where they were when it went off. If they were inside their house they may not have heard it because these sirens are strictly there to notify people outdoors of an emergency. These sirens are also used for other natural disasters. We also have a system in place called Alert GP, which we disseminate critical information to citizens. The 1st Wednesday at 1pm of every month we do a siren test, unless there is bad weather or an emergency situation going on. We don't want to alarm the public or desensitize them by activating these sirens too often. Our sirens have an auto activation so as soon as the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning the sirens within that polygon will sound. The sirens also have a wind legend on it so we can see what the wind speed is, so whenever the winds are over 70 MPH the sirens will sound. Informational Only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

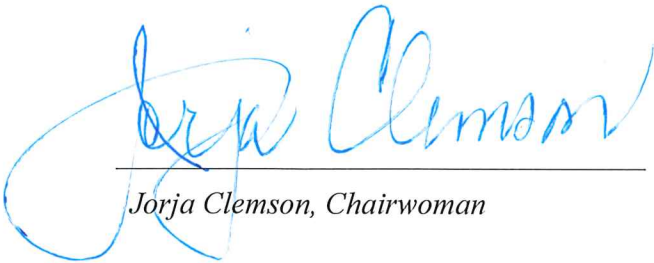
No Executive Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No Citizen Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

4:07



Jorja Clemson, Chairwoman