



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Clemson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson

Council Member Jacquin Headen

Council Member Bessye Adams

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. The Greatest American Cleanup Pledge from Keep America Beautiful

Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Solid Waste and Recycling Director presented to the committee the pledge to the Greatest American Cleanup from Keep America Beautiful which invites community leaders across the country to take a pledge to do more for the next three years to make our towns cleaner, greener, and more beautiful. Keep America Beautiful believes that if 25,000 communities can take this pledge, we can reduce litter by 25% and deliver a cleaner America for all on July 4th, 2026. By committing simple yet impactful actions from now until July 2026, Grand Prairie can also join the movement.

2. 2023 Clean Prairie Annual Report

Cindy Mendez, Public Health & Environmental Quality Director presented to the committee the 2023 Clean Prairie Annual Report. Ms. Mendez informed them that Public Health, Environmental Quality, Housing and Neighborhood Services, Code Compliance, and Solid Waste and Recycling have collaborated with the city partners of Clean Prairie to enhance their efforts toward this initiative.

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

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

3. Minutes of February 12, 2024, Public Safety, Health, and Environment Committee Meeting

Chairwoman Clemson presented the minutes of February 12, 2024, to the committee for approval.

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

4. **Approve application for the Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant in conjunction with NCTCOG for various projects to reduce greenhouse gases**

Cindy Mendez, Public Health & Environmental Quality Director informed the Committee that the North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) will be applying, on behalf of the region, to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Local governments have the opportunity to be a subrecipient and receive a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding. The application is due April 1, 2024 to the EPA. Funding is to be allocated from 2025 - 2030. To be competitive, the city has requested 80% funding and will contribute 20%. EPA awards are expected in October 2024. The total grant request is \$8,628,000 with an 80% federal grant request of \$6,902,400 and city funding of \$1,725,600. City staff from various departments have reviewed current and future city projects that may qualify for grant funding and identified nine projects to include the following: replacement of 10-inch gravity main with a 15-inch sewer line at a cost of \$1,640,000; improvement to the Doghouse Lift Station south of Camp Wisdom at a cost of \$212,500; replacement of an existing 6, 8, and 10-inch gravity feed main into Performance Lift Station at Lone Star Park at a cost of \$1,522,500; improvement of the Waterford Lift Station at a cost of \$143,000; replacement of the Performance Lift Station and an existing 8-inch force main and 12 and 15-inch gravity mains near Performance Place at a cost of \$2,001,000; replacement of five manholes in Basin 3.0 at a cost of \$2,641,000; improvements to the Oasis Lift Station at a cost of \$9,000; improvements to the Koscher Lift Station at a cost of \$109,000; and replacement of a generator at Fire Station #1 at a cost of \$350,000.

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

5. **An Ordinance of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, Amending Chapter 29 “Code Compliance” to Add Article XI “Vacant Properties” to Require Registration of Vacant Buildings, Lots, and Suites; Providing a Penalty; Providing a Savings Clause and a Severability Clause; Providing an Effective Date After Publication**

Ryan Simpson, Assistant Director of Police updated the Committee on many common code violations on vacant properties throughout the city. Common violations include litter, trespassing, high grass and weeds, rodent and mosquito harborage, substandard and dangerous structures, and illegal dumping. Many of these violations pose a public health and/or public safety concern and are present due to a lack of proper planning and maintenance on the part of the property owners. The City has also experienced situations with individuals trespassing on vacant properties, including inside vacant buildings. These individuals have started fires for warmth or engaged in other criminal activity, creating unsanitary conditions and posing a risk to public health and safety. To ensure compliance with the City’s Code of Ordinances and expedite the Code Compliance Division’s response to violations, staff has drafted a Vacant Properties Registration ordinance for review. This ordinance will require registration of all privately owned vacant properties. A maintenance plan and up-to-date point of contact will be required. This will expedite the resolution of any code violations occurring on these properties. Chairwoman Clemson stated concerns about requiring citizens who may have multiple properties and multiple registration hassle and suggested acquiring software that could streamline their registration into a single application she also stated that she feels like it may be a little aggressive. Council Member Adams wanted to support the City in whatever efforts it

takes to continue the City's "Clean Prairie" initiatives and is for citations if needed. Council Member Headen inquired if it applied to commercial properties only. Mr. Simpson reassured Council Member Headen that it applies to residential and commercial properties.

Motion to recommend approval of the ordinance with an amendment to assure that the software, whether manual or electronic, can condense multiple properties to one application for registration, and revisit the discussion in six months for presentation 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.

6. Ordinance Amending Chapter 13, Article II "Food and Food Establishments" of the Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances

Cindy Mendez, Public Health & Environmental Quality Director discussed with the committee the recent passing of the Texas 88th Legislature Senate Bill No. 577, which became effective September 1, 2023, and amended the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a municipality from requiring a local food manager card and fee. City Public Health Specialists will still ensure that food service establishments have a Certified Food Manager on site but will not require that the facility submit a copy to the city or charge a fee.

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.

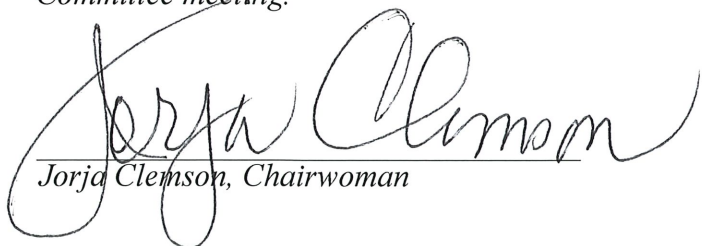
CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Clemson adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the April 9, 2024, Public Safety, Health, and Environment Committee meeting.



Jorja Clemson, Chairwoman