



CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE  
PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE  
COUNCIL BRIEFING ROOM, 300 W. MAIN STREET  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2021 AT 3:00 PM

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## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson  
Council Member Dennis King  
Council Member Junior Ezeonu

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. **October 4, 2021 Public Safety, Health and Environment Meeting Minutes**

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson requested that minutes be changed to reflect that everyone says "yea" and not just her. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected.

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

2. **Grand Prairie Health & Wellness Initiatives**

Werner Rodriguez with Environmental Services started off this presentation with monthly health and wellness topics that the city has events for. Every month there is a different topic that they will send an email about to over 15,000 people. We aim to take care of internal customers and external customers which are our residents. The Dallas County Community Needs Health Assessment comes out every two to three years and it shows the health needs that the community has. Grand Prairie has a high infant mortality rate so we aim several of our events to helping educate the community. Depending on what is going on in the world we try to bring those topics up. Together with Dallas County we set up events for residents to get a Covid-19 vaccine, especially in areas that are high risk.

Parks and Recreation Director Duane Strawn took over the presentation. As of November 1st, we went from 75% to 100% class openings. We have multiple events that people can chose from but we are having issues with finding instructors. Special events are back and we have done some upgrades to some of our parks to encourage people to get out and enjoy those facilities. We are trying to focus on social events because we have learned that is important for people to participate in those. For our seniors, we still have a nutrition program that supplies them with meals who do not feel comfortable getting out. We also are starting up trips for our seniors to enjoy again.

Communications and Library Director Amy Sprinkles briefed the committee on what the Libraries are doing to bring in people to exercise mind and body through classes, dvd's and online resources. The city libraries were only closed for four days during the pandemic and during that time they started sending encouraging notes to members or customers that they had not heard from in a while. The Dallas Morning News did a special feature on this initiative and it was very well received by customers. We also have Social Services now so we can connect our customers with resources they may need. All of this and more including info about Covid-19 are on our website.

Euriah Brown the Human Resources Operations Administrator and Manager of Benefits and Risk and Wellness Team took over the presentation on Employee Wellness Programs. We offer multiple discounts to employees to participate at different gyms and city facilities. Prairie Pulse is sent out by Marketing who we work closely with to get all events out to employees. There are multiple programs to help maintain different health issues along with how to prevent them. We also have an Employee Assistant Program that will allow employees to have five free counseling sessions to help them deal with life struggles, one of which is specifically for Police Officers to help them cope with things that many other people will never have to face.

Police Chief Daniel Scesney took over the presentation to explain some of the different programs that the Police Department have available to their employees. The Fit Force Program, which targets financial, emotional, physical fitness and spiritual wellness is something that we focus on a lot for our First Responders. Tarleton University did an anonymous survey among several different area agencies and Grand Prairie Officers scored the best in coping with anxiety, depression and stress due to the job. We also have the Cope Program which alerts us to residents in the city that may have mental illness and who need additional attention if an Officer comes across one of these individuals. We also have a new program called Blue Shoes that we started this year. We work with the school district in which teachers get shoe sizes from hundreds of kids from Kindergarten to Second grade. The teachers will give us the size of shoe each child wears and we go to the schools and put the shoes on the kids. This program has been sponsored by Amazon and Axon, a company that the PD works closely with after hearing about the great impact this initiative had. Nothing further on this item.

- 3. Authorize the City Manager to accept a grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch Tobacco Enforcement Program, through an Interlocal Agreement with Texas State University up to the amount of \$18,750 for the purpose of compliance-related activities of tobacco retailers**

Police Chief Daniel Scesney briefed this committee on this item. This grant money allows us to target convenience stores that sell cigarettes to minors. This is a reoccurring program. The Texas State University manages the program, and they write a check to the Police Department to cover the overtime expense.

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

4. **First Reading of an ordinance modifying the solid waste collection franchise agreement with Republic Waste Services of Texas Ltd., dba Republic Services of Arlington to increase the commercial and industrial rates and increase the franchise fee from 4% to 5%**

Solid Waste and Recycling Director Patricia Redfearn briefed the committee on this item. After a review of our franchise fee compared to surrounding cities we discovered that Grand Prairie is significantly lower than most. Our rate is at 4% right now, this ordinance will raise the franchise fee to 5% which will not affect the Net to Republic but will slightly increase the amount to the city. The new ordinance will reflect the new 5% franchise fee.

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

5. **First Reading of an ordinance of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, amending Chapter 26, Utilities and Services,” of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas by amendment of Article VI, “Garbage Collection and Disposal, “ Section 26-101 (c) and Section 26-115 (d), (f), and (h) to increase the franchise fee and commercial and industrial rates, making this amendment cumulative; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith, providing a savings clause and a severability clause; and providing for an effective date**

Items number 4 and 5 were combined.

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**


*No Executive Session.*

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

*No Citizen Comments.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**3:49 PM**



Jorja Clemson, Chairwoman

