



COMMISSION ON AGING
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 300 W. MAIN STREET
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021 AT 10:30 AM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - Called to order at 10:36 AM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Don Smarto
Commissioner Freddie Evans
Commissioner Prudence Mathis
Commissioner Lorraine Rose
Commissioner Cynthia Smith
Commissioner Barbra Thomas
Commissioner Nancy Wooten
AARP Representative Lee Lee Lee

ABSENT

Vice Chair Ann Hunter

PRAYER

It is the custom and tradition of the members of the Commission on Aging to have an invocation prior to the beginning of its meetings. The invocation is directed to and offered solely for the benefit of the members of the Commission, though members of the audience are welcome to participate. However, members of the audience are not required to participate. The decision to participate is strictly a matter of personal choice and will have no bearing on any matter considered or decision made by the Commission during the meeting.

Prayer by Don Smarto at 10:37 AM.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve the February minutes with the addition of Lee Lee Lee inserted into the Roll Call. Motion made by Commissioner Evans, Seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Voting Yea: Chairman Smarto, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Mathis, Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Wooten.
2. Duane Strawn introduced himself as the Grand Prairie Parks, Arts, and Recreation Director. He thanked the commission for their service. He then introduced Councilman Greg Giessner.
3. A summary of the presentation by Councilman, Greg Giessner is included below:

Councilman, Greg Giessner spoke today about Bond Proposition A. This proposition is the issuance of \$75 million general obligation bonds for promoting economic development within the city and the imposition of a tax sufficient to pay the principle of and interest on the bonds.

This bond will give the city the ability to go after land acquisition, redevelopment, and other economic development projects that will work to continually revitalize the City of Grand Prairie and increase revenue streams within the City.

General Obligation (GO) Bonds, similar to home loans, are used to finance city projects that cost more than available cash. GO bonds require voter approval. Grand Prairie has a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's, which is the highest possible bond rating and allows the City to pay lower interest rates on bonds.

The last voter approval bond issue was in 2001 for \$76 million for streets, signs, and storm drainage. Bond debt is repaid over time, usually 20 years. Airhogs Stadium and the Summit paid off 7 years early. The police/fire facility will be paid off approximately 7 years early. This is not expected to raise property taxes due to the increased revenue streams that come from this economic development. In Grand Prairie the property tax rate has not increased in 29 years. In fact it has decreased a couple of times.

If this proposition is approved by voters, buying land & building infrastructure for eligible projects, constructing facilities that may need revitalization, financing future projects, and awarding grants or loans to development projects will be made possible.

Special Election will be held on May 1st, 2021 - \$75 Million Economic Development Bonds

Information about this will be mailed to the historically known voters and will be posted online. A few of the restaurants the City has been working with, and hopes to bring to Grand Prairie, include Vidorra, Stir, and Luke 9.

4. Updates from Chris Ginapp - All Parks and Recreation facilities in Grand Prairie are following the Governor's lead and we are now highly recommending masks, but not enforcing them. The Summit and Play Grand Adventures opened on Monday, March 1st. The Summit had over 700 members return the first week.

Nutrition Update from Jackie Gunderson – 1,075 meals were served in February. We were able to give multiple hot meals to all nutrition members on Friday, March 12th along with an emergency meal. However, due to the ice storm we did not serve meals that week (February 15th-19th).

5. The goal of this item is to create a statement that informs the senior population of Grand Prairie of what the Commission on Aging is and what they do.

The Commission on Aging would like to respectfully recommend a new mission statement to the City Council:

"The Commission on Aging seeks to promote, facilitate, and enhance the quality of life for Grand Prairie seniors by offering solutions and recommendations of programs and services to our City Council."

Motion made by Commissioner Smith, Seconded by Commissioner Wooten.

Voting Yea: Chairman Smarto, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Mathis, Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Wooten

6. Calls & Transportation for Seniors in a Weather Crisis:
Open discussion about public transportation and disaster relief within Grand Prairie.
Ideas of possibly designating centrally located facilities as disaster/crisis relief shelters within the city if we ever experience this type of weather crisis again.
Discussion on developing a call system to connect with seniors.

Motion made to table this item by Chairman Smarto, Seconded by Commissioner Evans.
Voting Yea: Chairman Smarto, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Mathis, Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Wooten

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn at 12:05 PM by Commissioner Smith, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas.
Voting Yea: Chairman Smarto, Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Mathis, Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Wooten

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen's comments.

Certification

In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A, the Commission on Aging agenda was prepared and posted March 5, 2021.



Jaclyn Gunderson, COA Secretary