

MINUTES**LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2014**

The City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, met in Regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on January 27, 2014 at 7:04 p.m. with a quorum present to-wit:

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Marcus E. Knight
Carol Strain-Burk
Stanley Jaglowski
Marco Mejia
Mayor Pro Tem James Daniels
LaShonjia Harris
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Nina Morris

City Staff Present:

Opal Mauldin Robertson, City Manager
Thomas Griffith, Fire Chief
Cheryl Wilson, Police Chief
Sean Johnson, Parks, Recreation and Library Services Director
Dori Lee, Human Resources Director
Rona Stringfellow, Managing Director Public Works / Development Services
Ed Brady, Economic Development Director
Mark Divita, Airport Manager
Austin James, Lead Community Relations Assistant
Robert E. Hager, City Attorney
Angie Arenas, City Secretary

Call to Order:

Mayor Knight called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. on January 27, 2014.

Invocation:

Pastor John Richardson with Zion Chapel gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Marcus E. Knight led the pledge of allegiance.

Citizens Comments:

Austin James, 211 N. Henry Street, announced an opportunity to participate in the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan through a Community Charrette on February 1, 2014 at the Lancaster Recreation Center from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. noting registration is requested through the City's website; and encouraged all residents to participate in the survey regarding the Comprehensive Plan which is available on the City's website. Mr. James encouraged citizens to like and follow the City's social media pages, Facebook and Twitter.

Consent Agenda:

City Secretary Arenas read the consent agenda.

- C1. Consider approval of minutes from the City Council Regular Meeting held January 13, 2014.**

- C2. Consider a resolution declaring certain board, commission and committee position(s) vacant due to excessive absences.
- C3. Consider a resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of a Public Safety Radio System from Blair Communications through an Interlocal Agreement with Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) for a total amount not to exceed \$438,947.25.
- C4. Consider a resolution designating the equestrian trail at the Bear Creek Nature Park as the Cleo Hearn Equestrian Trail at Bear Creek Nature Park.
- C5. Consider a resolution approving the terms and conditions of the City owned T-Hangar non-commercial lease from building 680 at the Lancaster Regional Airport.
- C6. Consider a resolution approving the terms and conditions of the City owned T-Hangar non-commercial lease from building 670 at Lancaster Regional Airport.
- C7. Consider a resolution approving and accepting the bylaws of the Veterans Memorial Library Board.
- C8. Consider a resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) bus from Rush Bus Centers through an Interlocal Agreement with BuyBoard; authorizing the City Manager to issue a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$84,842.54.
- C9. Consider a resolution approving the terms and conditions of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement by and between the City of Lancaster and The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for the purpose of electronic warrant payment services.

Councilmember Mejia pulled consent item C3, C8.
Councilmember Harris pulled consent item C4.

MOTION: Councilmember Mejia made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Daniels, to approve consent items C1, C2, C5-C7, and C9. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

Councilmember Mejia stated that this item [item C3] was being pulled because Public Safety Radio has been an ongoing issue, and he wanted to ensure citizens that the City is not loosely spending such a large amount of money, the City is federally mandated to spend the money to be in compliance with the radio system.

MOTION: Councilmember Strain-Burk made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mejia, to approve consent item C3 as presented. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

Councilmember Harris requested background information [item C4] and asked to hear the origin of the request from Sean Johnson, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Library Services.

Director Johnson noted that in December the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was approached by members of the community, specifically former board member Coy Poitier with the suggestion of honoring longtime resident and rodeo aficionado Cleo Hearn. Mr. Hearn's historical significance was noted as well as the mention of a special called meeting that was held by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the purpose of renaming the equestrian trail which in turn led to the issue being brought before Council.

Councilmember Harris commended Director Johnson as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for recognizing Cleo Hearn.

Mayor Knight suggested creating an opportunity of recognition for Mr. Hearn in the form of some type of event.

MOTION: Councilmember Strain-Burk made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Daniels, to approve item C4 as presented. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

Councilmember Mejia stated that this item [item C8] was being pulled from the consent agenda in order to inform citizens of the poor state of the current bus, which prompted the City to spend this amount of money to purchase a new bus. Councilmember Mejia inquired about the cost to repair the current bus.

City Manager Mauldin Robertson stated that it would cost an excess of \$25,000.00 in parts alone excluding labor.

Councilmember Jaglowski inquired where the money to purchase bus would come from. City Manager Mauldin Robertson noted that Council established an equipment replacement program several years ago that stated that anything in the fund balance in excess of 12% was allocated to the equipment replacement fund and capital improvement fund in which the funds are already allocated in that fund for the purchase of equipment as dictated by the equipment replacement schedule.

Councilmember Jaglowski asked when we could see the bus in motion; at that time Director Johnson stated that the purchasing informant mentioned it would take 120 to 150 days.

Mayor Knight inquired if arrangements had been made to facilitate the program in the meantime. Director Johnson stated that recreation staff has been using a 12 passenger van and the senior bus to keep the program running.

Councilmember Harris noted that the City is a working class community and the after school program is an all-around investment; Councilmember Mejia noted that the purchase had already been budgeted for; the City was just moving forward sooner than planned and that this was an investment in our kids and future.

MOTION: Councilmember Mejia made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strain-Burk to approve item C8 as presented. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

- 1. Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending the Lancaster Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, the Lancaster Development Code, by amending Section 14.1204 Sign Type Specifications, by deleting Subsection K, Political Signs in its entirety and replacing it with a new Subsection K, Political Signs to provide for electioneering at polling locations.**

City Manager Opal Mauldin Robertson stated that on June 14, 2013 the State Legislature passed House Bill 259 which modified the Texas Election Code. A public entity which controls a public building used for a polling location is now required to allow electioneering at that site, specifically noted is the Lancaster Veteran's Memorial Library. The City's current ordinance does not allow electioneering on public property this item is brought forward to amend the current ordinance with the understanding that the signs will not impact visibility nor can it be within the distance required within the election code. Any questions can be directed to staff or City Attorney, Robert E. Hager.

Councilmember Strain-Burk inquired if signs being placed on vehicles parked in polling areas were included in the new bill; City Manager Robertson confirmed and added that electioneering is only allowed on election site during the election period, no other City facilities or times.

Councilmember Mejia asked how long the signs are allowed to be posted. City Attorney Hager stated that the law allows signs to be posted while the polling site is open. City Manager Robertson noted that City staff would not be strictly enforcing the "pick up at 7 p.m. and put out at 7 a.m." for ease of operational perspective. The City will rely on an "honor system."

Councilmember Harris inquires about any other amendments because her greatest concern is if the "honor system" is compromised and suggests something be set into place to decrease potential confusion. City Attorney Hager states that the best approach is to realize that the signs are going to be up for two weeks and an important note is to protect the infrastructure.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Morris asks that if signs are allowed to stay up during the entire election period and someone, not employed by the City, picks them up; is the City liable? City Attorney Hager states that the City is not liable and that would be an ethics or criminal violation.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strain-Burk, to close the public hearing. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

MOTION: Councilmember Strain-Burk made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Morris, to approve an ordinance amending the Lancaster Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, the Lancaster Development Code, by amending Section 14.1204 Sign Type Specifications, by deleting Subsection K, Political Signs in its entirety and replacing it with a new Subsection K, Political Signs to provide for electioneering at polling locations. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

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MOTION: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strain-Burk, to adjourn. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

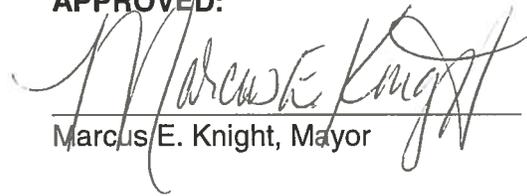
The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

ATTEST:



Sorangel O. Arenas, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Marcus E. Knight, Mayor

