



Meeting Agenda

Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee

Monday, October 5, 2020

4:00 PM

Council Briefing Room

Call to Order

Agenda Items

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

- 1 [20-10414](#) September 14, 2020 Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes
Attachments: [PSHE 2020 09 14 Minutes.pdf](#)

- 2 [20-10370](#) COVID-19 and Emergency Assistance Program - Presented by Steve Dye, Deputy City Manager / Chief Operations Officer, and Andrew Fortune, Assistant to the City Manager

- 3 [20-10420](#) Landfill Expansion Evaluation - Presented by Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Solid Waste & Recycling Manager

- 4 [20-10422](#) West Nile Virus Update - Presented by Cindy Mendez, Environmental Quality Manager

- 5 **20-10423** 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 \$37,500 for the purpose of compliance-related activities of tobacco retailers.
Attachments: Grand Prairie PD TEP FY21 Contract.pdf

- 6 **20-10424** Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding / Interlocal Agreement (MOU/ILA) with the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as it relates to the North Texas Strike Force (Dallas).
Attachments: 20200902152121161_0001.pdf
20200902152121161_0002.pdf

- 7 **20-10425** Tarrant County 9-1-1 District FY 2020-2021 Budget
Attachments: PRES - FINAL Budget 2021 w-5yr- and New Fees SH.docx

Executive Session

The Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee may conduct a closed session pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Government Code, V.T.C.A. to discuss the following:

1. *Section 551.071 "Consultation with Attorney"*
2. *Section 551.072 "Deliberation Regarding Real Property"*
3. *Section 551.074 "Personnel Matters"*
4. *Section 551.087 "Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations"*

Citizen Comments

Citizens may speak during Citizen Comments for up to five minutes on any item not on the agenda by completing and submitting a speaker card.

Adjournment

Certification

In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A. the Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee meeting agenda was prepared and posted October 2, 2020.



Mona Lisa Galicia, Deputy City Secretary

City Hall is wheelchair accessible. If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements, please call Mona Lisa Galicia at 972-237-8018 at least 24 hours in advance. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 20-10414 **Version:** 1 **Name:** September 14th, 2020 PSHE Meeting Minutes
Type: Agenda Item **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee
File created: 9/25/2020 **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee
On agenda: 10/5/2020 **Final action:**
Title: September 14, 2020 Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes
Sponsors:
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments: [PSHE 2020 09 14 Minutes.pdf](#)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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From
Lana Yancey

Title
September 14, 2020 Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

Presenter
Chairman Jeff Copeland

Recommended Action
Approve

Analysis
Minutes Attached



PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 14, 2020

The Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Member John Lopez at 4:00 p.m. on September 14, 2020 at Grand Prairie City Hall, Council Briefing Room; 300 W. Main St., Grand Prairie, Texas.

Attendees:

Committee Members Cole Humphreys and John Lopez, Chairman, were present. Staff members present: Deputy City Manager Steve Dye, Assistant City Attorney Tiffany Bull, Assistant City Attorney Chuong Phung, Marketing, Communications and Libraries Director Amy Sprinkles, Environmental Quality Manager Cindy Mendez, Senior Environmental Specialist – Health Programs Werner Rodriguez, Police Chief Daniel Scesney, Fire Chief Robert Fite, and Recording Secretary Lana Yancey.

Consider Minutes of August 3, 2020

Cole Humphreys motioned to approve the minutes as presented, John Lopez seconded his motion. Minutes passed as presented.

Egret Discussion

Environmental Quality Manager, Cindy Mendez briefed the committee on Egrets and Nuisance Heronries/Rookeries. Egrets follow other birds like herons and are attracted inland who mainly stay in the America's. Egrets like nesting in large tree canopies and trees that are 20 to 30 feet in height. The egrets live in rookeries or heronries which can include up to 18,000 nests, but typically only around 5,000. If egrets are left undisturbed they will return for up to 12 years to the same general location. These nuisance birds are loud, cover the ground with lots of feathers and dead birds, they leave dead fish in the road and yards and there is an abundance of bird droppings. Egrets are protected under the migratory bird treaty. Grand Prairie Environmental got involved with the egret nuisance in 2018 when they started to nest in a neighborhood on the south east side of Grand Prairie. We have looked into the cost of trimming trees the birds are nesting in and it is around \$850 per tree, or close to \$250,000 to trim all the trees in neighborhoods affected. The issue is using public money on private property which becomes a slippery slope on when we say yes or no to doing so and may bring up legal issues. If we do trim trees we are not certain that the birds will return to the same location in the future. In 2018 the nuisance was in Lake Park Village 3, in 2019 it was Lake Park Village 2 and 3, and in 2020 it has been Lake Park Village 2 and 3, Two Worlds and Inglewood Village. In 2018 Environmental Services started street sweeping in these areas once a month and asked people in that neighborhood to move their cars, but they normally would not. We would have to first go through and power wash and then sweep the streets. Unfortunately, we are not able to go on private property where there is still a lot of feces and debris from the birds.

Every year we increase the amount of times we are street sweeping. We started sending mailers and having community meetings in 2018 to offer an egret kit that includes “scary eyes” to put in the trees, we also include information on our website to help with deterring these birds. People started illegally trimming their trees while the birds were already nested, because of this we also sent out mailers to make residents aware that they could get in trouble with the state. Environmental has inquired with the state in regards to data that the birds might cause people to get sick, but the state has said that there is no information that people are directly affected by these birds. We have looked into a state depredation permit which the city of The Colony uses. The things that The Colony does to deter the egrets are the use of propane cannons, sound machines and city employees are able to shoot the adult egrets. The city employees also treat nests with olive oil which will stop the eggs from hatching, in which the use of a lift is needed to get into these tall trees. The permits are good for one year. We do not think at this time we should pursue getting this permit. We are going to try more tactics and make more residents aware of this problem and what to do before we attempt a permit. Committee Member Humphreys has an issue with using the excuse of not wanting to use city money to take care of the issue. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye advised that we could spend thousands and thousands of dollars to trim trees but we are not certain where the birds are going to return the following year. We would definitely want input from City Council on this issue. We would ultimately be speculating where these birds will return and we just don’t know if they will return to the same area or if they will return a block or two over. We do not like to tell homeowners that there isn’t anything we can do, but in regards to using public money we would need to consult with legal. It is a tough decision to make. We have not found any federal funding to help with removal of nests and treatment of eggs. After a couple years of living with these birds people have started to trim trees legally and illegally. Now that we know that this permit is available we will keep exploring different options to eradicate the birds until we feel we cannot do anything further, then we may apply for the permit. We are sending mailers to the neighborhoods affected and the surrounding neighborhoods before the season starts to help deter these birds. Committee Member Lopez asked if we see people in these neighborhoods installing carports. No we have not seen that, they are using that money on tree trimming. At our community meetings this year we had a total of 60 people in attendance to inform them of the issues we have with these birds and what they can do to deter them. We will obtain a copy of the application for the Depredation permit and see what we can further do to take care of the issue. Humphreys would like to know why the egrets are still covered under a migratory bird and therefore protected. We will do an after action discussion with this committee regarding any new tactics and information we can find on Egrets.

Fire Department changed to the Aerial Apparatus (Fire Truck) deployment and location

Fire Chief Robert Fite briefed the committee on this item and how it affects our ISO Rating for Grand Prairie. Every 10 years the Insurance Service Office, which is out of New Jersey, come in and score Fire Departments around the country on risk assessment as it pertains to large fire incidents. They evaluate staffing, equipment, training and fire station and apparatus location in the city to determine an ISO rating that ultimately affects the home owner’s insurance rates. In 2016 the Grand Prairie Fire Department received the best rating we could get, which is a 1. There was a note in that report stating if the fire department does not make ladder truck placement deployment changes our future rating will not be a 1 and our home owner’s rates will go up. We brought in a consultant in 2018 to give us an engineering study of our ladder deployment. The ladder trucks are the large trucks which are high risk, low frequency type of apparatus placed right now at stations 10, 9, 8 and 1. They go to all hazmat calls, can stretch out a 100ft to rescue someone in high water, underground rescues and roof top rescues. The ladder trucks are the bread and butter to the ISO ratings. The Fire Engines are smaller that carry water, put out fires, carry the hose and the fire trucks are cutting holes, reaching walls and rescuing people.

The engineering study resulted in three options. Option 1 adds a 5th ladder truck, which would cost \$1.5 million and \$1.2 million in staffing for life. With the challenges in the budget we don't think we need to add an additional ladder truck. ISO does a 2.5 mile drive time analysis and a 6 minute drive time. Option 2 and 2A might be better options. Option 2 would move the ladder trucks from Stations 1,8,9,10 to 1,8,5,7 which gives us optimal coverage and helps the area with a lot of apartments and warehouses. Option 2A would move the ladder trucks to stations 3,8,9,10 but would leave a gap on highway 360 by the mall. So we have decided, beginning this winter we are moving the ladder truck at station 9 to station 5 that is at the airport and the ladder truck at station 10 to the lake parks fire station. This is not costing the city any money and will keep our ISO 1. The ladder trucks are lined up along George Bush Turnpike. Right now we are rebuilding station 3 which will allow us to house a ladder truck in the future if needed. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye commended Chief Fite on his leadership and making hard decisions to keep this ISO rating. Option 2 is the best option for the city to get optimal coverage. Chief Fite is presenting this along with Fire Station 11 and the land that was donated for that to City Council tomorrow. Committee Member Humphreys asked if we don't make any changes will our ISO rating change. Chief Fite advised that if we don't redeploy our ladder trucks we would lose the rating we have now. Chief Fite also explained that the east end of town, most of the streets cannot fit a ladder truck down them and a large portion of the residents and buildings do not need a ladder truck. This was just a discussion item only.

Crime Control and Prevention District Sales Tax Election Public Education Plan

Marketing, Communications and Libraries Director Amy Sprinkles briefed the committee on the Public Education Plan on Crime Control and Prevention District Sales Tax. How are we talking to our residents about this? We are sending brochures and postcards to historical voters to remind them to get out and vote. Chief Scesney has already done a lot of informational videos. We are looking at getting magnets for cars for the National Night Out Cruise through the city. We are also bringing mailers to the post office a little earlier this year due to Covid and the post office running a little slower. We also did a phone survey and 87% that responded would vote yes to the tax. The items that the Crime Control and Prevention District Sales Tax would cover are online and Chief Scesney covers all of that as well in detail. Committee Member Lopez mentioned a virtual Town Hall with a couple council members and residents could send in questions. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye suggested adding it to the Mayor Message. Ms. Sprinkles suggested not call it a Town Hall but a community meeting or record a meeting with an audience that would ask the most common questions so that we can better inform our residents. Ms. Sprinkles was asked if her team could help with the mailers for the Egret awareness.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a Selective Traffic Enforcement (STEP) grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the enforcement of safety belt, child safety seat, speed, intersection traffic control, distracted driving and DWI laws in the amount of \$317,105.87.

Police Chief Daniel Scesney Briefed the committee on the STEP program. This allows Officers to work traffic enforcement like DWI's, speeders and red light runners for off duty. We do have License Plate Reader stuff coming but it is not enforcement based. Nothing further.

Ordinance amending Chapter 25, "Traffic", of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie by adding new Section 25-6 "Unreasonable Acceleration" and Section 25-7 "Prohibited Used of a Motor Vehicle in a Parking Lot"; Providing a penalty; Providing a savings clause and a severability clause; and providing an effective date upon passage and publication

Police Chief Daniel Scesney briefed the committee on this item. This item relates to racers, particularly in the north part of town with them peeling out. This wording helps us enforce on private property which will positively impact the quality of life. This amendment does not mean that a car that accidentally peels out at a red light will be given a ticket. This mainly is for vehicles peeling out in a parking lot. The state law changed so we had changes made to the wording to fill the gaps. Years ago this was called exhibition of speed but there is a loophole now so we can't write the same ticket as before. Nothing further.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understand / Interlocal Agreement (MOU/ILA) with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as it related to the Mid-Cities Violent Crime Task Force

Police Chief Daniel Scesney briefed the committee on this item. This enables our investigators to work with the Mid-Cities Violent Crime Task Force and the authority to file case federally. We will not be putting any of our Officers over there full time. This is a crime fighting tool for Grand Prairie Police Department and it costs us zero. Nothing further.

Resolution in support of a Justice Assistance Grand (JAG) application to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justin Assistance for \$36,300 in total funding with an agreement for \$10,890 to be allocated to funding Dallas County projects and \$1,778.70 to be allocated to the City of Dallas for fiscal administration fees and expenditures leaving a net amount of \$23,631.30 to the City of Grand Prairie

Police Chief Daniel Scesney briefed the committee on this item. We get this grant every couple of years to fund equipment for our Axon Body Cameras, Taser batteries and cartridges. This grant saves us money on the general fund. Nothing further.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, for the Grand Prairie Police Department's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit to conduct commercial motor vehicle inspections, conduct public awareness campaigns, in the amount of \$401,122.38

Police Chief Daniel Scesney briefed the committee on this item. This will continue to help our Department of Transportation Certified Officer to inspect semi's and make sure they are not too heavy and putting pot holes in the ground and to make sure the trucks have all the equipment on them that they should have . We will still be doing this on duty but this will allow our officers to do some off duty work as well. Nothing further.

Committee Members showed support for items 5-9.

2021 Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meetings

Deputy City Manager Steve Dye presented the 2021 meeting schedule and explained that if there are any dates that need to be changed we have some flexibility and can change them if needed.

Meeting adjourned: 5:17 p.m.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 20-10370 **Version:** 1 **Name:** COVID-19 Assistance
Type: Presentation **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee
File created: 9/4/2020 **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee
On agenda: 10/5/2020 **Final action:**
Title: COVID-19 and Emergency Assistance Program - Presented by Steve Dye, Deputy City Manager / Chief Operations Officer, and Andrew Fortune, Assistant to the City Manager
Sponsors:
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Title
COVID-19 and Emergency Assistance Program - Presented by Steve Dye, Deputy City Manager / Chief Operations Officer, and Andrew Fortune, Assistant to the City Manager



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 20-10420 **Version:** 1 **Name:** Landfill Expansion Evaluation
Type: Presentation **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee
File created: 9/29/2020 **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee
On agenda: 10/5/2020 **Final action:**
Title: Landfill Expansion Evaluation - Presented by Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Solid Waste & Recycling Manager
Sponsors:
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Title
Landfill Expansion Evaluation - Presented by Dr. Patricia Redfearn, Solid Waste & Recycling Manager



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 20-10422 **Version:** 1 **Name:** West Nile Virus Update
Type: Presentation **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee
File created: 9/29/2020 **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee
On agenda: 10/5/2020 **Final action:**
Title: West Nile Virus Update - Presented by Cindy Mendez, Environmental Quality Manager
Sponsors:
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Title
West Nile Virus Update - Presented by Cindy Mendez, Environmental Quality Manager