



City of Grand Prairie

City Hall
300 W. Main Street
Grand Prairie, Texas

Meeting Agenda

Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee

Monday, May 4, 2020

4:00 PM

Video Conference

Due to the imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting of the Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee will be held via video conference. Members of the public may participate in the meeting remotely via broadcast, by webinar or telephone through the following:

When: May 4, 2020 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: City of Grand Prairie - Public Safety, Health & Environment Committee Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://gptx.zoom.us/j/97288593728?pwd=N3djQ0gvcWFndWNkMXdqQk9ab3Q5QT09>

Password: 820223

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All meeting participants will automatically be muted until it is their turn to speak. To be recognized to speak, use the "raise hand" feature in the Zoom meeting platform. Or, if you are joining by phone, you may press *9 to raise your hand. Please call in only during discussion of the item on which you wish to speak. After speaking, remute your phone by pressing *6.

Call to Order

Agenda Items

The full agenda has been posted on the city's website, www.gptx.org, for those who may want to view this agenda in more detail. Citizens may speak for five minutes on any item on the agenda by following the instructions to join the meeting on the first page of the agenda.

- 1 [20-9907](#) Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

 Attachments: [PSHE March 2, 2020 Minutes.docx](#)

- 2 [20-9946](#) COVID-19 Update - Cindy Mendez, Environmental Services Manager, and Chase
 Wheeler, Emergency Management Coordinator

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

Adjournment

Certification

In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A. the Public Safety, Health & Environment Committee meeting agenda was prepared and posted May 1, 2019.

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 #: 20-9907 **Version:** 1 **Name:** March 2, 2020 Public Safety, Health and Environment Minutes

Type: Agenda Item **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee

File created: 4/6/2020 **In control:** Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee

On agenda: 5/4/2020 **Final action:**

Title: Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: [PSHE March 2, 2020 Minutes.pdf](#)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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From
Lana Yancey

Title
Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

Recommended Action
Approve



PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 2, 2020

The Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Copeland at 4:00 p.m. on March 2, 2020 at the Grand Prairie City Hall, Council Briefing Room; 300 W. Main St., Grand Prairie, Texas.

Attendees:

Chairman Jeff Copeland, Council Members Cole Humphreys and John Lopez were present. Staff members present: Deputy City Manager Steve Dye, Judge Bryan Arnold, Police Chief Daniel Scesney, Assistant City Attorney Tiffany Bull, Animal Services Division Manager Lily Yap, Police Support Services Division Manager Ryan Simpson, Director of Transportation Walter Shumac, Assistant City Attorney Chuong Phung, Code Compliance Manager Steve Collins, Chief City Planner David Jones, Deputy City Attorney Mark Dempsey and Recording Secretary Lana Yancey.

Consider Minutes of January 6, 2020

The Public Safety, Health and Environment Committee minutes for January 6, 2020 were approved as written by Council Member Cole Humphreys and John Lopez.

Dollar Store Discussion

Chief City Planner David Jones briefed the committee on Dollar Stores or Variety stores throughout Grand Prairie. Mr. Jones advised there are approximately 30 of these stores in Grand Prairie in which some are stand alone and some are in retail strips. These stores tend to go to areas where there are no big box grocery stores, and in low income areas. In the forthcoming formal proposal to add regulation to the Unified Development Code the definition of Variety Store will be updated to add diversity. Dollar stores are one of the few retailers that are experiencing growth, especially in Food Deserts as defined by the USDA, which is the area between Interstate 30 and Pioneer Parkway. These stores sell an array of items to include house hold goods, durable goods, grocery items and novelty items, but is lacking in fresh fruit and fresh goods. There are other cities in Texas and other states to pass ordinances to limit these type stores and require them to sell fresh foods. There have been some variety stores that have sold fresh fruits, but due to not selling they have to “damage out” the items. Chairman Jeff Copeland raised concern about government interference with business. Chairman Copeland doesn’t think that if the businesses are throwing away, or damaging out most of their fresh foods that they are required to stock in their store, then it wouldn’t be worth it to sell fresh foods. A stake holder meeting was held on February 13th with seven operators in attendance in which all represented Family Dollar Stores. There were 30 operators invited to attend this meeting. Council Member Cole Humphreys thinks that the items sold now in variety stores are not healthy and requiring them to sell fresh foods would increase good health options for citizens. Council Member John Lopez brought up the lack of grocery stores in the North side of town. He suggested an incentive program to the variety stores that do sell fresh foods. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye advised that the changes made to the policy would require at least 5,000 feet between these variety stores. The variety stores would have to hire a new delivery service to provide fresh foods to their customers. The city is beyond the saturation point of these stores. We don’t want to over step, but it may help the city to create an opportunity to get new grocery stores into the city. The new SUP will be going to Council in the next few months. The variety stores have done a great job complying with the security policy that went into effect recently.

Chairman Copeland noted that the incentive program idea that Mr. Lopez had is a great idea, but sometimes we are elected to make some tough decisions and this may be one of those tough decisions. When we ask for 10% fresh foods for these variety stores to sell, do we give them a definition? The definition will be added in the SUP to include fresh fruit, meat and dairy products. No recommended changes from Public, Safety, Health and Environment Committee.

Short Term Rentals Discussion

Deputy City Attorney Mark Dempsey briefed the committee on regulations on Short Term Rentals. Grand Prairie requires these properties to register and pay Hot Taxes. There are cases in Grapevine, Arlington and Austin that have gone to court regarding short term rental ordinance, but these cities were not able to restrict short term rentals. The new ordinance would result to include the outcome of the cities that have been brought to court. Some of these ordinances now restrict types of assembly and conduct. Mr. Dempsey advised that the city can hire a company to locate all the short term rentals for a fee of \$10,000 per year. In turn, the city can go to these locations and require them to comply with the new restrictive policy that is coming and register their property. Chairman Jeff Copeland expressed that he is a strong advocate for property ownership. At some point the continuous noise complaints at these short term rentals are violating the neighbor's rights. Police Chief Daniel Scesney advised that if an Officer responds to a short term rental location they will know if we have responded to this location in the past, and what kind of problems we have had. If Officer's respond to a location continuously for the same violation they will get a citation. These locations that Officers repeatedly respond to these problem locations, the courts can use body worn cameras as a complainant, so that something can be done about the nuisance. Chairman Copeland doesn't care about the fee for finding all short term rentals or where they are, he just cares about repeated problems. Hot Taxes, which are required to pay are calculated online when people book the short term rental. If a location fails to register their property, we do have a registration citation. Chairman Copeland advised that every time we come in contact with a short term rental, we should investigate and prosecute these that do not follow our policy/ordinance. We also want to respect their property rights. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye advised that we would refer these cases to the State Attorney General's Office; we would not prosecute or investigate at a local level. Most places on websites like AIRBNB the address of the place you have rented isn't sent until after booking. Once we find and use the service to locate all short term rentals in the city we will remind them to register and pay their Hot Taxes. Short Term Rental status update will go to the Development Committee Meeting next.

Semi-Annual Fire Department update

Fire Chief Robert Fite will come to this committee twice a year to update on critical things going on in the fire service. Chief Fite briefed the committee on the new State Bill 2551 relating to liability, payment and benefits for Fire Fighters. Grand Prairie is nothing out of the ordinary on coverage for Fire Fighters. Presumptive laws presume because I am a Fire Fighter and I get a cancer, it is because I am a Fire Fighter. Cost of coverage is covered by the state and will come from the risk fund in lieu of insurance fund. The new cancer presumptive law will include 11 cancers. Local Associations have petitioned legislation for years to consider cancer as presumed. Every state in the nation will have a presumptive cancer law for Fire Fighters. In Grand Prairie right now we have three Fire Fighters that have three claims with one of those 11 cancers and have been accepted by TML. These are being paid by cash fund, not the insurance fund. These claims are now considered workers comp, which can devastate funds. Nothing related to our sister fire fighters. A Fire Fighter is twice as likely to get cancer and 30% more likely to die from cancer due to dermal absorption through the soft tissue. The gear that Fire Fighters use is changing due to the research done in which smoke is absorbed by the skin and not just by breathing it in. Every Fire Fighter and Police Officer on the scene of a fire are being exposed to the smoke and toxins, which is then absorbed through their skin. The Grand Prairie Fire Department is making changes to all fire apparatus, fire stations to have airlocks and move ice machines out of the bay among other things. There are changes to what Fire Fighters do after exiting a fire, which include what they do with their gear and how quickly they return to the station to shower and get all the chemicals and toxins off their body. They wash their gear a certain way in a special machine that is at every fire station.

All of these expenses are not included in the budget because the Council approved the Fire Department to apply for the Federal Medicaid Program and trust fund was created. All department employees will have a medical screening with multiple steps to check for tumors. Every employee will be checked for cancer every other year. Grand Prairie has always been considered an aggressive department, but we are now reverting to a responsible department. We will decide once on scene of a fire how to respond depending on if someone is in the building and if we are going to enter the building. We have to make sure the health of our Fire Fighters is more important than putting out a fire. Chairman Copeland mentioned the fire at his mother's house and that she had a steel roof and the fire was centralized to the kitchen, although the entire house is going to be ruined due to the smoke and soot. He would rather let it burn since insurance would more than likely bulldoze it anyway and everyone was out of the house. Do you think someone would come back to the city to try and sue due to the Fire Department let the fire burn instead of going inside and fighting the fire? We will cross that bridge when we come to it. Chairman Copeland asked if having a biz-hazard camper would be helpful for the department. Chief Fite advised it is easier to get the Fire Fighters back to the station within 90 minutes to shower and get their gear washed. Chief Fite also briefed the committee on a new Blocking Apparatus. Right now the Fire Department uses a fully manned fire engine as a blocking apparatus. They sit in the engine for hours sometimes, which is not the best management of personnel. Grand Prairie Fire Department will convert two old fire engines that will be manned by a driver only to respond to incidents on the Highways and Belt Line Road. The blocking apparatus will have a digital message board, arrows and will help the oncoming vehicles know what is happening and what lanes are closed. This will be put in place in January of 2021, after policies are updated. Chairman Copeland asked if there was something else we can add to the blocking apparatus so that no one will get hurt. Chief Fite advised that the blocking apparatus gets hit all the time and mentioned they did research on The Scorpion but it is made to take head on collisions. The blocking apparatus will be filled with gel to make it heavy. The new policy will state if the driver of the apparatus should stay in or out of the apparatus during calls for service. Chief Fite also mentioned that the blocking apparatus will have plenty of fire extinguishers on it to put out a vehicle fire just in case it comes upon that type of emergency situation. Lastly, the Fire Department will now adapt Lexipol Best Practices which will send daily, weekly and monthly training bulletins to employees via email. The Fire Department will now utilize a Texas Fire Service Best Practice Manual which will send updated policies directly to staff. Separately, March 1st there were 25 Fire Fighters put in isolation because of a medical call from a potential patient of COVID-19 Virus. Is there a briefing coming for council on what is happening with the virus within the city? Yes probably beginning of April. Chief Fite mentioned medical gloves that have been coming from China will not be coming for months due to factory shut downs. Fire administration is asking Fire Fighters to only put gloves on when you have patient contact. Chairman Copeland mentioned to put a short paragraph out to citizens on website that we are monitoring and gathering information on the COVID-19 Virus.

19th Judicial Quarterly Report

Judge Bryan Arnold briefed the committee on the 19th Judicial Quarterly Report. The report is self-explanatory. September 1st, 2019 and January 1st, 2020 a new law passed and did away with the Surcharge Program. Department of Public Safety has been working on making that to go away for a while. The Surcharge program was a burden on a certain section of drivers. What the state did to recoup that loss is to add a \$20 increase on fines across the table. Chairman Copeland asked if Judge Arnold is ok with all our fines across the board. Yes, he thinks we are in the pocket of where we should be. We don't know the percentages of other cities. We have Alias Warrants and Capias Pro Fine Warrants. With a Capias Warrant you are only held on very specific offenses but an Alias Warrant you are released as soon as you see a judge. The relationship between the Detention Center and the Court is good, no problems to note. There is a Judge available 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Are prisoners legally entitled to see a Judge Sunday mornings? They are if it is a misdemeanor case.

Off-Duty Police Officer Traffic Direction at Traders Village

Deputy City Manager Steve Dye briefed the committee regarding Off-Duty Police Officers. Grand Prairie Police Department staff meets with staff at Traders Village Quarterly. The city and the venue splits 50/50 paying Officers that are working the entertainment district. Who determines how many Officers need to be working a traffic post? The Police Department staff does an analysis on how many Officers need to be working each event. This will fluctuate depending on the size of the event. We are trying to be frugal but also maintain safety. At Traders Village there are 2 DPS Troopers that work inside and one Grand Prairie Police Officer working the parking lot. Traders Village staff has been excellent partners and have installed cameras, worked with us on how to prevent crime, allow the Grand Prairie Police Department to go in and look for fraudulent property, and they also constructed a bigger and better parking lot. The \$750,000 new parking lot has helped with getting traffic in Traders Village quicker and has added 1,000 parking spaces. They could move gates back further to help traffic further. Grand Prairie police Department now staffs six Officers for traffic control, two Officers at three different intersections, and this was before the start of the construction project. We pay \$17,000 per year for overtime at Traders Village. Due to minimum staffing conditions on Patrol we could not pull someone to work these traffic posts. Deputy City Manager Steve Dye suggests we wait until April when the construction project is done to see if more changes are necessary. We have added temporary signage in the area to notify drivers how and where to exit and enter Traders Village. We may have an opportunity to ask Traders Village to make more changes to help with traffic control in the future. Chairman Copeland thought that the staff at Traders Village was not willing to pay our Officers enough to work and therefore they weren't getting enough help with directing traffic. He believes these suggestions make sense to see what it is like after the construction project is done and reassess. Our Officers are maxed out on overtime and it is hard to get Officers to work Traders Village. Chief Daniel Scesney likes the wait and see approach. Chairman Copeland expressed that there are still heavy traffic problems on Sunday's, explaining that it took him 40 minutes to get from Forum and Great Southwest to the McDonalds at Great Southwest and Outlet Parkway. Steve Dye asked that Chief Scesney make changes to push the south bound traffic on Great Southwest until the construction is done. Chairman Copeland suggested no right turn on Great Southwest from Mayfield. This topic will be on agenda again after construction project is completed.

Interlocal Price Agreement for Body Worn Cameras with Axon, Inc., in the amount of \$15,631 for the current year, and for \$8,544 for each of the four subsequent renewals, totaling \$49,807 if all extensions are executed through a national interlocal agreement with Buyboard; and authorize the City Manager to execute the renewal options with aggregate price fluctuations of the lesser of up to \$50,000 or 25% of the original maximum price so long as sufficient funding is appropriated by the City Council to satisfy the City's obligation during the renewal terms

Lily Yap briefed the committee on body worn cameras for the Animal Services Officers. This is a huge step for liability reasons for cases that go to court. Animal Services will get eight cameras and will amend the Police Department policies to match their protocols. Police Support Services Division Manager Ryan Simpson will handle training of employees on how to use the cameras. The city has an unlimited storage plan to store the footage. This was brought to this committee for information purposes only. Public Safety, Health and Environmental Committee approve this agenda item.

Ordinance amending Chapter Five, "Animal Services," Section 5-14 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, to adjust adoption policy to reflect industry best practices and discontinue adopter-specific citation process

Animal Services Manager Lily Yap briefed the committee on amending a sub section to Ordinance Section 5-14 with the City of Grand Prairie. This will cover animals that are adopted but are too young to receive the rabies vaccination, which is the only vaccination that animals are required to receive by state law. The primary population of animals we are looking at for this ordinance is animals under 12 weeks of age. Legally an animal can be adopted at two months but the youngest an animal can receive the rabies vaccination is three months. Animal Services is not required to follow up on vaccines for

reclaims nor transfers. There were over 2,300 adoptions in fiscal year 2019. The expansion of the shelter was an amazing help with the increase of almost 30% in adoptions compared to fiscal year 2018. Chairman Copeland suggested adding information about the improvements at Prairie Paws and the rise in numbers of adopted animals in the Pipeline. When a reclaimed animal goes back to a family they are microchipped and they offer a reduced rate to spay or neuter to encourage them to take advantage of that. The biggest change will be made to the Adoption Package, which includes sterilization, microchip implantation, core vaccinations and rabies vaccination. The adjustments would include Core vaccinations up to date and remove rabies vaccination. This will include all vaccinations up to the point the animal is adopted, which does not raise the price of adoption. The current Ordinance requires staff to follow up on adoptions to make sure they are bringing the animal back to get the rabies vaccination. If they do not bring back the animal back to get the rabies vaccination, they are issued a citation, which is punishing our most valuable customers. The new Ordinance would state that the adopter is responsible to get the rabies vaccination, but also allow adopters to make an appointment for their animal to get the rabies vaccination for free based on Vet availability and when the animal is of age. In Grand Prairie we do not have registration of pets, instead we microchip all pets that come into the shelter. We understand that some people cannot afford all services at the time of adoption. Chairman Copeland asked why do we not up the age of adoption to three months in order to cut some of the back and forth and red tape? Lily Yap explained we get in a lot of very young animals and having them in our system longer requires more resources. Adjusting the rabies follow up puts less work on our staff and resources. These changes will not hold adopters to a higher standard to other citizens. Council Member Humphreys asked if we are able to distribute vaccines to adopters. No, the rabies vaccine has to be administered by a Vet. Quarterly Vaccine events are being hosted by Prairie Paws at high risk areas. Council Member Humphreys asked for Ms. Yap to explain a little on the Catch and Release program. The volunteer based nonprofit known as The Cat Crew helped launch this program, which traps, neuter and release back into the community. This prevents more kittens and cats in our city. When cats come to Prairie Paws they are evaluated, get all vaccinations and receive an ear notch, showing that they have been taken care of and are then put back into the community. Prairie Paws used to take the cats in and euthanize them which in turn new cats would notice this and move into the area. Since the launch of the catch and release program, it has prevented new cats from moving in. This causes less of a nuisance to neighborhoods with spraying and fighting cats. The Cat Crew took in 3,800 cats in 2019. Steve Dye explained that Lily has brought a high level of best practices to the shelter and has made it the most humane shelter.

We will bring agenda items for Short Term Rentals and Dollar Stores to the City Council Meeting to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Jeff Copland, Chairman



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 20-9946 **Version:** 1 **Name:** COVID-19 Update
Type: Presentation **Status:** Agenda Ready - Committee
File created: 4/27/2020 **In control:** Environmental Services
On agenda: 5/4/2020 **Final action:**
Title: COVID-19 Update - Cindy Mendez, Environmental Services Manager, and Chase Wheeler, Emergency Management Coordinator

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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From

Cindy Mendez, Environmental Services Manager

Title

COVID-19 Update - Cindy Mendez, Environmental Services Manager, and Chase Wheeler, Emergency Management Coordinator