

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 23, 2019

A Regular Meeting was held by the Grey Forest City Council of the City of Grey Forest, Texas on July 23, 2019 at 6:35 p.m. in the Grey Forest Council Chambers, 18502 Scenic Loop Road, Grey Forest, Texas. The following members present to-wit:

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Darst
Council member Kimberly Verity

Council member Sean Skaggs
Council member Geri Poss
Council member Jennifer Nottingham

Mayor Howard absent

Staff Present:

Sgt. Scott Ristow
Chief Rene Rodriguez

City Secretary Shannan Kinsley
Assistant City Secretary Joni Baker

Citizen's Present:

Don Reddout
Madeline McCloskey
Kathleen McCloskey
Susan Beavin
Emory Bluhm

Call to Order – City Council Regular Session

Mayor Pro Tem Darst called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Opening Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

(Mayor Pro Tem Darst)

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes – Consideration and/or action regarding the approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting of June 25, 2019. Council made the motion to change pg. 1, under Consent Agenda Items from Deputy Chief Frank to Deputy Chief Frank Francis and last pg., bottom of the 4th paragraph where it reads the vote was unanimous; follow with a period and delete Council members Nottingham voting for and no one voting no. Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized *Council member Skaggs who moved to approve as amended and was seconded by Council member Nottingham. The vote passed with Council member Verity and Darst voting for and no one voting no. Council member Poss abstained. Motion Passed. Minutes Approved.*

Hearing of Residents - None

Mayor Announcements

- Mayor Pro Tem Darst announced the Legislative Session is closed.

1. Post Session Update: Senate Bill 1303 passed. Municipalities must have city maps of the corporate limits available for viewing both in municipal offices and online.

June 2019 Monthly Financials

- Continue working on payroll. Over budget items are Attorney Fees and Professional Fees due to the surveys.

Council/Staff Announcements – None

Committee Announcements/Reports – None

Grey Forest Community Board (GFCB) Update

- 3 days of cutting and clearing invasive trees near Deep Springs Dam will begin July 24th - 26th. No herbicides will be used. Deer will eat the new Ligustrum shoots.
- Madeline McCloskey, Peter Carey and volunteers will be hauling wood to trailers.
- Trees will be planted near the Community Center for shade to replace trees that have been removed.
- Laurie Hawkins has volunteered to pick up the replacement trees and water them once planted.
- Preparing for Memorial trees with plaques.
- Receiving bids for clearing bamboo.
- Cedar eaters will be cutting and mulching bamboo in place. Hiring crew to maintain area.
- Maintenance will be performed on creek when it dries out.
- Experiment will start in August with a port-a-potty placed near the Community Center.

Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area Update

- July 20th work session removed dead cedar trees out of trails and emptied poop station.
- A citizen promised a donation for poop station.
- City Council needs to appoint Board vacancies.

City Events and Announcements

Saturday, November 2nd

Grey Forest Arbor Day

Board of Adjustment Update - None

Police Department Activity Report

- Announcements of June 2019 Monthly Report.

Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized Chief Rodriguez who will provide the following announcements:

1193 hours worked, 3917 miles driven, 318 total calls for service, 33 Summons, 48 total stops with 22 warnings. 1 theft from stolen mail. May need to reevaluate locked mailboxes. There have been reports of voicemail scams. Have started follow up phone calls on the Knock & Talk Program. Sgt. Elliot Rodriguez attended a meeting with the City Attorney regarding SOP's. He also attended Code Enforcement Classes and is preparing for his Certification Testing. Currently revamping citations. Chief Rodriguez and Deputy Chief Francis attended FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) training.

Public Works

- Announcements of June 2019 Monthly Report.

Mayor Pro Tem Darst announced work continues along Scenic Loop Road. Will leave sign up on marquee.

GFU Utility

- Announcements - None

Fire Department

- Announcements of June 2019 Incident Report

Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized Don Reddout who will provide the following announcements:

Total of 5 calls; 4 assist EMS and 1 animal rescue. Average response time 3.2 minutes. The new fire station is running behind schedule. Bids will be opened next month. Construction will start end of August.

Unfinished Business

- 1. Discuss and Act on Appointment of Board members to the Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area Board of Directors pursuant to Amendment to Ordinance No. 180** – Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized Council member Nottingham who stated the Board would like to reappoint Chris Porter, Susan Beavin and Storms Duthie for 2-year terms each.

Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized *Council member Verity who moved to reappoint Chris Porter, Susan Beavin and Storms Duthie for 2-year terms each. Motion was seconded by Council member Poss. The vote was unanimous with Council member Nottingham, Darst and Skaggs voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*

- 2. Discuss and Act on Appointment of Board members to the Grey Forest Community Board (GFCB) pursuant to Amendment to Ordinance No. 215** – Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized Madeline McCloskey who stated the Board would like to appoint Trish Terrazas and reappoint Madeline McCloskey for 2-year terms each.

Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized *Council member Poss who moved to appoint Trish Terrazas and reappoint Madeline McCloskey for 2-year term each. Motion was seconded by Council member Skaggs.*

The vote was unanimous with Council member Nottingham, Verity and Darst voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.

- 3. Discuss and Act on Amending the City of Grey Forest Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Road Budget for the Scenic Loop Road Maintenance Plan** – Mayor Pro Tem Darst stated the City of Grey Forest is working in conjunction with the City of Helotes. When you have a dollar amount greater than \$50,000 a formal solicitation is required. The City of Helotes put together the formal solicitation comprehensive documents and included the City of Grey Forest. The bids have been received. The City of Helotes is processing the bids not necessarily by the lowest price but for best value. Striping was bid separately. Both bids have come back more expensive than anticipated. Initially \$75,000 was projected for the entire project. We're requesting to move \$30,000 from the Contingency Fund to the Scenic Loop Road Maintenance Plan to cover the project and have some padding raising the budget to \$105,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized *Council member Poss who made the motion to move \$30,000 from the Contingency Fund to the Scenic Loop Road Maintenance Plan. The motion was seconded by Council member Skaggs. The vote was unanimous with Council member Nottingham, Verity and Darst voting for and no one voting no. Motion passed.*

New Business

- 4. Discussion on City Council Policies & Procedures on Managing the City Marquee** – Mayor Pro Tem Darst recognized Council member Nottingham who discussed placing on the marquee notifications of Grey Forest citizens passing.

Council member Verity discussed that this policy was written and put in place because the Scenic Loop - Helotes Creek Alliance wasn't able to post their meetings on the marquee. That the City wasn't necessarily in line with every mission statement the Alliance had. Council member Nottingham initiated the City having a policy which took away the power from the Mayor and his ability to use his discretion.

Council member Nottingham stated she wanted to know what we could and couldn't post on the marquee. It needed to be a policy and she likes having guidelines.

Council member Poss stated that it was never intended to curtail the Mayor or to stop his ability to use his discretion. They were trying to get a better sense of what the marquee is used for but thought the policy was guidelines, not a mandate. Not to replace what the Mayor feels is appropriate in his administrative duties.

Mayor Pro Tem Darst stated if you have a literal reading of the policy, there is no room to put up messages like Merry Christmas or Happy New Year and that's what makes Grey Forest unique. She doesn't want that to stop which can be accomplished by changing the policy to read at the Mayor's discretion.

Council member Nottingham stated the way she reads the policy is that notification of Grey Forest citizens passing is allowed if requested by the family. The family requested it.

Council member Verity stated we need to have some ground rules for when a person decides that they don't like something. We can't put policies in place just because somebody didn't get their way or doesn't like

what's going on at the City level. It causes miscommunication like this to happen and now we are in a position that we want something on the marquee, but the Mayor feels that has discretion was taken away.

Council member Darst stated the intent was to set a guideline and to know what the rules are. She believes we need an unbiased policy in place as a municipality.

Council member Poss stated the problem with the policy is that first we say "guideline" but then mandate "not allowed".

Council member Verity stated the not allowed in the policy is the issue. We need to clarify wording with the City Attorney and let him know that we did not mean to take away the Mayor's discretion.

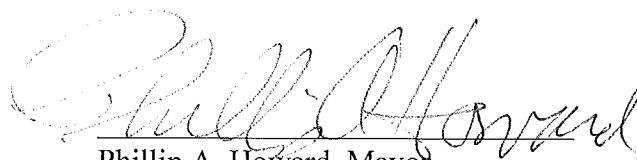
Council member Skaggs stated it's important to recognize the passing of citizens but it's also important for notification of events that benefit our citizens.

There was lengthy Council discussion on rewording the policy. Council suggested removing the examples of events and notifications of Grey Forest Citizens passing. Council agreed to keep "Not Allowed" outlined as that was the spirit of the policy. Adding at the recommendation of the City Attorney wording to give the Mayor discretion. Council gave direction to get a recommendation from the City Attorney to reword the policy so that the Mayor still has his discretion but to also encompass the spirit of Grey Forest.


Mayor Pro Tem Darst stated we will get direction from the City Attorney and bring this item back to Council next month.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Darst adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.


Phillip A. Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shannan Kinsley, City Secretary