



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING,
AUGUST 27, 2018

Members Present:

Mayor Larry Thompson
Mayor Pro-Tem John McCaw
Councilmember Todd Arvidson
Councilmember Kay Bower
Councilmember Robb Erickson
Councilmember Bryan Lantzy

Members Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Ron Eberhardt, Police Chief
Karen Ford, Finance/HR
Marisa Spencer, Assistant City Secretary
Shelley Goodwin, City Secretary

City Commissioners in attendance

Dr. Miller, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission
Mark Hausheer, Vice Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission
Karen Diaz, Planning and Zoning Commission
Kitty Owen, Planning and Zoning Commission
David Ringle, Planning and Zoning Commission

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the City Council members present, Mayor Thompson called the special meeting of the Garden Ridge City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 27, 2018, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizen's Participation – Limited to (30) minutes

Shelby Trail, 21657 Forest Waters Circle, read a statement regarding Wildlife Management (see attached).

4. Business Items

The following items are for discussion, consideration and action.

a) Approvals/Authorizations/Reports/Discussions

i. 2018 Tax Rate.

1. Review and discuss the proposed 2018 Tax Rate of \$0.323146.

Mayor Thompson stated the City proposes to leave the 2018 Tax Rate at the same tax rate as last year, \$0.323146 since the property values have gone up and I & S rate has gone down. He also reviewed the proposed Maintenance and Operation Rate and the Debt Rate.

2. Hold a public hearing to receive comments for or against the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.323146 for the 2018 tax year.

Mayor Thompson opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Thompson asked if anyone wished to speak. No one did, so Mayor Thompson closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

3. Announce date, time and place of:

a. Adoption of the 2018 Property Tax Rate (Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 6:00 p.m., (City Council Chambers, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas).

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, announced the adoption of the 2018 Property Tax Rate is scheduled for September 5, 2018 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

b) Consider the approval of hiring Marisa Spencer, Assistant City Secretary, on a 90-day probationary period effective August 27, 2018.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated three Staff members interviewed four candidates for the Assistant City Secretary position with Marisa Spencer being selected. She stated she believes Marisa is the best candidate for the position and has the potential to have a very successful career with the City of Garden Ridge.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Lantzy, seconded by Councilmember Bower, to approve the hiring of Marisa Spencer, Assistant City Secretary, on a 90-day probationary period effective August 27, 2018. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

c) Update and discussion on Wildlife Management.

Mayor Thompson stated on August 10, 2018, he and several others met with three Biologists from Texas Parks and Wildlife. He stated there was over 100 years of experience with wildlife in that meeting. He stated he asked for this meeting so he could get all the stakeholders in one room and get all the facts regarding Wildlife Management.

Councilmember Bower stated she is not in favor of continuing the negotiations with the Deer Manager candidate. She stated the meeting on August 10, 2018, was very educational and she thanked Mayor Thompson and the City Administrator for arranging the meeting.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated she too thought the meeting was very educational and hopes that the same Biologists can speak to the City Council as well in the future.

The City Council discussed the need for education and acceptance of the education.

Mayor Thompson stated he has asked the Wildlife Management Advisory Commission to put together a fact sheet regarding what can legally be done with the State of Texas' wildlife, which can be posted online.

Councilmember Erickson stated he and Nancy Cain, City Administrator, met with a few residents today regarding wildlife management per a resident's request. He thanked Nancy Cain, City Administrator, for attending this meeting and reported the meeting went well. Due to not being in attendance at the August 1, 2018, City Council regular meeting, Councilmember Erickson raised concerns about the action taken on the recommendation from the Wildlife Management Advisory Commission regarding the number of deer counts to be conducted. Mayor Thompson explained the information provided to City Council by the Commission Chair during the August 1, 2018, City Council meeting. The City Council further discussed the number and process of the deer counts, as well as receiving a recommendation from the Commission at the next City Council meeting.

**5. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 20 minutes total
See “Rules for Citizen’s Participation” under Item 3.**

Kitty Owen, 8420 Twisted Oaks, spoke regarding the deer herd in Garden Ridge and their health.

David Ringle, 9234 Blazing Star Trail, spoke regarding the need of additional data regarding the Deer Counts.

6. Adjournment

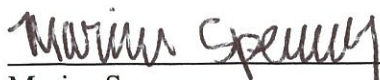
There being no further business, the Monday, August 27, 2018, Garden Ridge City Council special meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. by Mayor Thompson.



Larry Thompson
Mayor

Minutes prepared by Shelley Goodwin

ATTEST



Marisa Spencer
Interim City Secretary

SIGN IN TO SPEAK AT THE AUGUST 27, 2018 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

Rules for Citizens' Participation:

The City Council welcomes citizen participation and comments at all City Council Meetings. The City Council offers citizens the opportunity to address them by signing up to speak prior to the meeting. If you speak, you follow these guidelines:

- a) Respect and courtesy:
 - i. Direct your comments to the entire City Council, not to an individual member, nor to the audience.
 - ii. Show the City Council the same respect that you would like to be shown.
 - iii. End your speaking at the time allotted below.
- b) Speaking:
 - i. First citizen comment period
 - 1. You are required to sign up to speak.
 - 2. You are limited to one 3 minute period.
 - ii. Business item period
 - 1. You are required to sign up to speak.
 - 2. You are limited to one 3 minute period.
 - iii. Second citizen comment period
 - 1. You are not required to sign up.
 - 2. You are limited to one 2 minute period.
 - iv. State your name and address before your comments begin.
 - v. You are only allowed to speak once per topic, unless also speaking during a posted Public Hearing.

NOTE: The Texas Open Meetings Act permits a member of the public or a member of the governmental body to raise a subject that has not been included in the notice for the meeting. However, any discussion of the subject **must be limited** to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting and any response to a question posed to the City Council is limited to either a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.042

NAME

ADDRESS

SUBJECT

1. SAKELBY TRIAL

21657 FOREST WATERS CR. GR, TX

~~WILD LIFE MGMT~~

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For the past four years I've had the distinct privilege of working with other volunteers on the Parks Committee to help improve our parks, and to help build a more cohesive community. Though few in number, this committee has successfully organized and expanded the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Annual 4th of July Picnics into small town, family focused events. Now we have a group of people dividing the community by being allowed to violate the rules of the social media site, NextDoor.com. They exaggerate the facts surrounding deer management, they dispute the white-tailed deer research of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and they bully anyone who does not share their point of view. In just a matter of months these people have so impugned the reputation of our City leaders that I can no longer remain silent. I've avoided engaging them on NextDoor because as the Parks Committee chair, I want to unite the community, not divide it. The NextDoor "lead", slash moderator, has failed to enforce the NextDoor guidelines dealing with ranting, over-posting, incivility, and others, because SHE shares the same opinion as those who are in violation. I intend to fight back, but before I can, I need to insulate the Parks Committee from any comments I may post on NextDoor. That means I'm probably going to resign as chair of the Parks Committee. If they wish to apply for my chair position or run for City office, then do so, but be civil about it. It is truly maddening to watch these people insult Commission or Council members in a forum where Texas law bars any response from the dais. One of the agitators even had the gall to publicly criticize the members of the Wildlife Commission as being disrespectful, when that person was dressed like he just came from mowing his yard, complete with exposed armpit hair, shorts, and flip flops. We have people on NextDoor complaining how City tax money is being spent, when they don't pay a dime in City taxes. That's the same kind of entitlement thinking, as someone who is not handicapped, parking in a handicap zone, just because someone else in their household deserves a handicap license plate. At that Wildlife Management meeting, we had people mention they were from Kansas, California, New Jersey, and Colorado. Well, they're in Texas now, and Texans have more self-respect. Those people inaccurately say that the latest deer opinion survey showed that more than half of the City stands with them. I suggest they hurry up and get that half of the City mobilized if they want to have a Christmas Tree Lighting event this year. Otherwise, any cancellation or degradation of this event will be laid entirely at their feet, and I'll make sure they are all named. People of Garden Ridge, our

City government and volunteers work hard on your behalf. They do not deserve the fake news, sniping, and uncivil behavior that it is appearing on NextDoor, and it must STOP! In the meantime, I'll continue volunteering in other areas, and I'll give you my decision on whether I'll continue as the Parks Committee chair, at the September City Council meeting.