



CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE

City Hall
300 W. Main Street
Grand Prairie, Texas

Meeting Minutes

Special City Council Meeting – Council Goals and Sponsorship/Grant Applications Review

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

5:00 PM

City Hall - Briefing Room

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order 5:04 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Ron Jensen

Mayor Pro Tem Jorja Clemson

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Junior Ezeonu

Council Member District 2 Jacquin Headen

Council Member District 3 Mike Del Bosque

City Council Member District 4 John Lopez (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)

Council Member District 5 Tony Shotwell

Council Member District 6 Kurt Johnson

Council Member At Large Place 7 Bessye Adams

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Jensen and Council discussed Item 2 first.

1. City Council's Top 10 Goals of 2025

Mayor Jensen called the meeting back to order 6:22 p.m.

Mr. Hills provided an update of the list of ongoing items. He noted Turner Park renovations will be removed from the list. He reviewed downtown revitalization, noting construction would begin in 2027 for twelve to eighteen months. Council Member Shotwell disagreed with removing this item from list. Mayor Jensen also supports leaving it on the list. Mr. Hills discussed the development of the Infrastructure Master Plan noting it is being worked on through the City Council Development Committee. Mayor Jensen and Council supported leaving all the pending items on the list. Mr. Hills noted staff suggests adding development of infrastructure for Southgate to list. He also discussed the Grand Prairie Metropolitan Utility Reclamation District (GPMURD) to include securing a plan with the Army Corp of Engineers for floodplain mitigation in the Entertainment District. Mr. Hills discussed pursuing attainable housing opportunities, providing incentives as needed to attract independent unique retail stores, funding and building a pickleball complex, improving streets within each council district on a grading system, working to attract more grocery stores particularly in food desert areas, continuing downtown revitalization, developing an infrastructure masterplan and preparing for a potential November 2025 or May 2026 bond package, and supporting green

energy initiatives. Mayor Jensen moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clemson, to approve these items as Council's Top Goals. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Headen asked staff to have one application for both sponsorships and grants this year. There was discussion on whether or not to require receipts. Ms. De Leon confirmed receipts are required for grants. Council discussed adding a question on whether the funding request exceeds over fifty percent of the applicant's operating expense, not requiring a provision budget information. City Attorney Maleshia McGinnis reminded council that public dollars must be used for a public purpose and a policy in place is necessary. Mayor Jensen noted the request should not be more than ten percent of the applicant's budget. Council Member Headen said she would like to see what they are spending their money on. There was discussion on having policies and a procedure in place so the public purpose is being followed. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu said he received complaints on item five of the application – a detailed annual operating budget. Ms. De Leon discussed the funding source. Council Member Adams said they need to validate if the organizations are legitimate and only allow 501(c)(3)'s. She said if they are able to maintain that status, it is an appropriate organization to receive public dollars as they would have governance through a board. Council Member Del Bosque asked if we do not inquire how they are receiving money, then how does the city determine the percentage. Mayor Jensen said the application is on an honor system. Council Member Johnson supports reviewing the organizations' administrative fees. Mayor Jensen said Council needs to decide if money would be given only to 501(c)(3)'s. For non 501(c)(3)'s, they would need to bring in other supporting documentation. Ms. De Leon discussed Section 6.2 of policy. Council Member Johnson asked to change the MLK parade to city "supported" instead of "sponsored." Council Member Headen asked to delete the question regarding list of board members. Mayor Pro Tem Clemson suggested adding an option of a \$2 donation on water bills toward this pot to fund local nonprofits. There was discussion on the cost to add that option. Council Member Shotwell asked if adding a notary requirement would be feasible, Ms. McGinnis noted the form is already subject to perjury, and Ms. Sprinkles said it is outlined in the policy. Mayor Jensen suggested a presentation at Council Briefing and then an item to vote on at a different meeting.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

2. City Sponsorship and Grant Applications

City Manager William A. Hills reviewed the sponsorship and grant application list, noting the application was prepared after receiving previous feedback from Council and did not come back to council for review but staff did what they understood council requested. Mr. Hills noted the budget is two hundred thousand dollars and the total of all requests received is three hundred sixty four thousand dollars. Deputy City Manager Cheryl De Leon advised Special Projects Manager Amy Sprinkles can provide details of what each requester plans to do with funds requested. Ms. De Leon reviewed the spreadsheet listing applicant information and confirmed city funds given must meet a municipal public purpose. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu asked how to revise the policy, and Mr. Hills said it can be presented at a later meeting if Council desires. Ms. De Leon discussed the first category which lists organizations requesting the same amount requested last year, except for Help Us Help Her (HUHH). Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu said the requester advised she meant to request ten thousand dollars and not thirteen thousand dollars. Council Member Headen noted last year it was discussed and decided to not give out more than ten thousand dollars per request, and she asked that

there be one application next year for both sponsorship and grants. Mayor Jensen asked how much was spent last year and Ms. Sprinkles confirmed the amount was \$134,050. Mayor Jensen noted this year is a tight budget year and he wants to be cautious. Ms. Sprinkles confirmed no one did not receive money last year who requested funds. There was discussion on giving the same amount as last year due to current budget and restaurants being down thirty percent in revenue. Council Member Johnson advised if a non-profit received Community Development Block Grant funds, he supports not providing sponsorship funds to those entities. He added that he would like to review administrative fees paid to organizations during the application review and advised he does not support a number of those appearing on this list. Ms. Sprinkles confirmed if they apply and receive a grant, they are still eligible to receive sponsorship. Council Member Shotwell asked if the Housing Community Improvement Commission still rates Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and if so maybe they can also rate these to have community input. Council Member Johnson noted his support of that. There was discussion on what criteria would be used and it being difficult for nonprofits to receive funding. Mayor Pro Tem Clemson supports funding them the same amount as last year. There was discussion on HUUH's confusion in completing their application and on new sponsorship requests. Council collectively agreed to support the parades. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu confirmed not all parade organizations receive the same amount. Mayor Jensen noted the larger ones receive more. There was discussion on whether funding would include a parade and festival and whether sponsorship awardees need to submit receipts. Ms. Sprinkles confirmed for this year, they would need to show how the funding was used, but not necessarily receipts. Council agreed all from this list, with the exception of HUUH, would receive the same sponsorship amounts as the previous year.

Council Member Johnson reviewed the NAACP's request for funding and there was discussion on where the funding is going for NAACP events, on two smaller parades and two separate entities receiving funding. Council Member Adams asked to clarify what a non-violence campaign with Airbus entails. Ms. Sprinkles said this is a new event and details have not yet been received. Mayor Jensen confirmed no entity should receive more than ten thousand dollars. Council Member Adams said she does not agree on funding something she does not have information about or that is not appropriate. Mayor Jensen said he does not want to discuss events separately. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu supports giving NAACP five thousand for Freedom Fund. There was discussion on parades not being 501(c)3 organizations and involvement of schools in certain parades. Council Member Shotwell suggested ten thousand dollars for the NAACP branch and another ten thousand dollars for the parade. Council supported this. Council Member Adams supports giving the Pregnancy Resource Center of Grand Prairie ten thousand dollars. Mayor Jensen supports giving them same as last year and council collectively agreed. There was discussion on giving Children First ten thousand dollars, giving the Women's Club twenty-five hundred dollars. Mayor and Council supported. Ms. De Leon discussed the Grand Prairie Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's application. Mayor Jensen supports funding them twenty-five hundred dollars. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu advised this is same group that runs Hispanic Heritage. Mayor Jensen reviewed history and lives touched by these organizations. Mayor and Council agreed to fund them at five-thousand dollars. There was discussion on the applications that did not meet eligibility, and it was agreed to not fund applications that did not meet eligibility.

Ms. De Leon discussed grants and funding them same as last year. Ms. Sprinkles noted Amor a Nuestra Ballet Folklorico is not a 501(c)3. Council agreed to no funding for them this year and to the same amount as last year for Community Step In, twenty-five hundred dollars. Council

Member Headen discussed Community Step In and reminded Council after receiving funds last year, this organization continued to come before council stating they did not receive funding. She supports adding a statement in the letter to recipients to confirm that they cannot come back to ask for more during the year. Ms. De Leon discussed new grant requests not funded in 2024. The following was discussed by council and approved: Santa Cop \$2500, Lunch Box of Love approved \$1000, HUUH \$5000. Advising Generation Z \$0. Ms. De Leon discussed those grant requests that do not meet eligibility, and Council agreed on to provide no funding to those that do not meet eligibility. Mayor Jensen moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clemson, to approve the list as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jensen adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the March 4, 2025, City Council meeting.

Mona Lisa Galicia, City Secretary