

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE CIVIC CENTER, 16327 LAKEVIEW DRIVE, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

A. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Warren at 5:34 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Bobby Warren	City Manager, Austin Bless
Council Member, Drew Wasson	City Secretary, Lorri Coody
Council Member, Sheri Sheppard	
Council Member, Michelle Mitcham	
Council Member, James Singleton	
Council Member, Gary Wubbenhorst	

Council Member Mitcham was not present when the meeting was called to order, but joined the meeting in progress at 5:48 p.m.

B. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** Citizens who have signed a card and wish to speak to the City Council will be heard at this time. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, unless the subject matter of the comment is on the agenda, the City staff and City Council Members are prevented from discussing the subject and may respond only with statements of factual information or existing policy. Citizens are limited to five (5) minutes for their comments to the City Council.

There were no citizens' comments.

C. **SPECIAL SESSION**

1. **Discussions with State Representative Lacey Hull.**

Ms. Hull introduced herself, stating that she is excited to be representing our District. She wants to learn about Jersey Village so she can help our City.

Mayor Warren explained that we have had Representatives visit with us in the past. He explained that the meeting will be a bit informal to assist with good discussion.

There was discussion about our most common interaction with the State, which concerns flooding and grant funding. We have had help from Congresswoman Lizzy Fletcher. Such help is always appreciated.

City Manager Bless gave some background information about grant funding with the Texas Water Development Board and other agencies that we are working with concerning grant funding.

There was discussion about our needs. There was also discussion about the district boundaries in which Ms. Hull serves. It was pointed out that our needs may be smaller than those of Houston or Harris County, but the needs are similar given our proximity to the City of Houston.

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There was discussion about TXDOT and our experiences with that organization during the US HWY 290 expansion project. In connection with same, there was discussion about traffic signals located in and around our City for which we have no control. Nonetheless, when they are malfunctioning, we receive the requests for repair.

The Council asked Ms. Hull if there are areas that she can help with that we are not aware. She explained that she can help on bills that affect the City. She can give the City a voice during the legislative sessions and with State agencies. She explained how the bill filing works and the process. In connection with bill support, she explained that the sooner the City contacts her for help, the better.

Council Member Mitcham joined the meeting in progress at 5:48 pm.

There was discussion about the various areas she could help us with bills before the Legislature. An example was a bill concerning building façade that had a negative impact for our City.

There was discussion about cell towers and issues with installs. It was mentioned that most installs in Jersey Village are located in the City right-of-way; however, sometimes the installs left a mess in the residents' front yards. In this respect, the City does not always have the ability to remedy these situations.

There was discussion about how Jersey Village might help Ms. Hull. She stated that as bills come up that affect us in any way, she welcomes input.

Unfunded mandates were discussed.

The expectations concerning the Texas power grid were discussed. She explained that as far as she can tell, everything should be fine with what was done concerning weatherization and additional requirements. However, we really will not know until we are faced with another storm.

The tax rate process was discussed and how the State changes affected our City.

There was discussion about high-speed rail. The issues with the rail do not affect Jersey Village unless there is a stop in Jersey Village. The Mayor explained our project to develop the land on the south side of US HWY 290 and how the rail project has affected our development plans.

The flock cameras were discussed and how they help our Police Department fight crime. Also, paper plates and issues with these type plates were discussed.

Ms. Hull stated that there will be a bill about vaccine mandates in the next session. This will be a controversial bill. There will be much involved in working through this bill.

There was discussion about newspaper publications as well as virtual meetings, transparency, and redistricting.

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ADJOURN

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary

