

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM IS PRESENT**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Warren at 7:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Bobby Warren	City Manager, Austin Bleess
Council Member, Drew Wasson	City Secretary, Lorri Coody
Council Member, Sheri Sheppard	City Attorney, Justin Pruitt
Council Member, Michelle Mitcham	
Council Member, James Singleton	
Council Member, Jennifer McCrea	

Staff in attendance: Robert Basford, Assistant City Manager; Mark Bitz, Fire Chief; Kirk Riggs, Chief of Police; Isabel Kato, Finance Director; and Abram Syphrett, Director of Innovation and Technology.

**B. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

1. **Prayer and Pledge by:** Steve Loo, Teaching Pastor, Hope Church

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Presentation of Employee of the Month Award for February 2023.**

Austin Bleess, City Manager, presented the Employee of the Month of February Award to Kimberly Murphy.

**D. 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.

**Avery Ayers, 16321 Lewis Street, Jersey Village, TX (346) 350-7992** – Mr. Ayers spoke to City Council about the events of December 22, 2022, concerning the arrest of a young black man. He mentioned a video of this arrest that was sent to the City. He wants the Chief of police to fire the officers involved in this arrest, and if he does not, he wants the Mayor to fire the Chief of Police. Mayor Warren explained that he does not have the power to fire the Chief, but there is a process underway concerning this issue.

**Jim Fields, 16413 Saint Helier, Jersey Village, Texas (713) 206-1184** – Mr. Fields spoke to City Council. He is a candidate for Mayor. He mentioned problems in TIRZ2. He feels we have wasted money on this project. He believes that too much about this project is secret. He would like it to be more public. He is concerned about the developer chosen by the City. He feels that there is no vetting process for this project. He wants to know who the Board Members are and he wants their names published. He wants the residents to be able to vote on approving this project before moving forward. He also spoke to the TIRZ3 project. He does not support the

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project. He also mentioned that he believes that the selling of alcohol at the golf course is not right, and he wants a moratorium on property taxes.

**Rick Faircloth, 16010 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village, TX (713) 466-8065** – Mr. Faircloth spoke to City Council about the over 65 tax exemption. He believes that with the increased property evaluation that City Council should consider raising the over 65 tax exemption. He stated that both the County and the City of Houston have a better exemption than the City.

**Bruce Bowden, 16325 Lewis Street, Jersey Village, TX (713) 410-9766** – Mr. Bowden spoke to City Council about the golf course. He spoke to the debt service of the golf course. He refutes the fact that the course is making money and gave his reasons in support of same. He believes that the debt service should be added into the factors of whether or not the course makes money. Mayor Warren pointed out that the debt Mr. Bowden is speaking to includes debt from other projects as well as that of the golf course.

**Marybess Salvaggio Guzzetta, 15314 Glamorgan, Jersey Village, TX (281) 468-2414** – Ms. Guzzetta spoke to City Council about the Airbnb across the street from her home. She does not feel safe. She stated that the street is tied up with parked cars and there is much traffic in and out of that home. She does not understand why the City is passing an Ordinance regulating short-term rentals. She stated that the home across from her is rented all the time. Mayor Warren stated that the Ordinance is to regulate the short-term rentals since they are authorized under State law.

**Mark Maloy, 7803 Hamilton Circle, Jersey Village, Texas (713) 461-1430** – Mr. Maloy spoke to City Council about the WOB channel and the other channels that run through Jersey Village. He spoke to the property lines of residents and that ownership goes to the center of the channel. He stated that there is a 75-foot easement that is set aside specifically for flood control. He went on to state that, in connection with these channels and the Flood Control easement, there is a trail connection into Jersey Village, which has increased problems with ATV's riding into the City from the connection and into Clark Henry Park. Residents do not like this. He wants to know what the City will do to stop the problem. Mr. Maloy also spoke to the Golf Course debt service.

**Ernest K. Hewett, 15917 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village, TX 77040 (713) 252-3957** – Mr. Hewett spoke to City Council about short-term rentals, an item on tonight's agenda. He stated that he is aware of seven homes in Jersey Village that are short-term rentals. He stated that one of the homes is behind his home. He has complained to the City about this rental. He cited several laws and deed records filed in the past about deed restrictions that state that the lots are for residential use only, not for profit. He does not want the City to act on the item on tonight's agenda and gave his reasons for same.

**Kimberlee Henao, 15601 Singapore Lane, Jersey Village, TX (832) 689-9878** – Ms. Henao gave information to City Council about the history of Jersey Village from 1988 to include pop culture, sign designs for Clark Henry Park, new police uniforms, West Gulf Bank being placed on the State Highway Plan, a new City Hall Parking lot, the opening of the City Golf Course, and much more. She closed by encouraging residents to enroll in the police and fire academies.

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**E. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

City Manager Bless gave the following monthly report. There was a question concerning the legislature and how the bills being filled will affect the City. City Manager Bless stated that TML is a great organization that tracts the bills and provides analysis for our review.

- 1. Monthly Fund Balance Report, Enterprise Funds Report, Governmental Funds Report, Property Tax Collection Report – December 2022, General Fund Budget Projections as of January 2023, and Utility Fund Budget Projections – January 2023**
- 2. Fire Departmental Report and Communication Division’s Monthly Report**
- 3. Police Department Monthly Activity Report, Warrant Report, Staffing/Recruitment Report, and Police Open Records Requests**
- 4. Municipal Court Collection Report, Municipal Court Activity Report, Municipal Court Courtroom Activity Report, Speeding and Stop Sign Citations within Residential Areas Report, and Court Proceeds Comparison Report**
- 5. Public Works Departmental Status Report**
- 6. Golf Course Monthly Report, Golf Course Financial Statement Report, Golf Course Budget Summary, and Parks and Recreation Departmental Report**
- 7. Code Enforcement Report**
- 8. 2022 Racial Profiling Report**

**F. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items are considered routine in nature by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion and vote. There will not be separate discussion on these items unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered by separate action.

Each Consent Agenda item appears below with background information. Item 7 was pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Accordingly, Item 7 contains discussion information as well as Council’s vote, if applicable. The vote on Items 1 thru 6 is found at the end of the Consent Agenda.

- 1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the Regular Session Meeting held on January 23, 2023.**
- 2. Consider Resolution No. 2023-05, setting the schedule for Regular City Council Meetings for the period beginning May 2023 and ending May 2024 in order to make the Council’s meetings more accessible to the public and to accommodate conflicts with City holidays, the city election cycle, and local school schedules.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The City’s Charter requires the following concerning meetings of the Council:

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“**Sec. 2.09. - Meetings of the council.** There shall be at least one regular meeting of the council each month. All meetings shall be public, except where permitted by law to be closed in whole or part to the public, and shall be held at the city hall or other public place in the city. Special meetings may be called at any time by the city secretary upon request of the mayor, the city manager or three members of the council.”

In connection with this Section of the Charter, the Council traditionally has met on the third Monday of each month. However, for the following reasons, it may be prudent for the Council to consider setting a schedule for future meeting dates in order to accommodate conflicts with conducting its meetings on the third Monday of each month:

1. An increasing desire that Council meetings accommodate the local school schedule.
2. Conflicts with City holidays that fall on the third Monday of the month;
3. Conflicts with the city election cycle wherein the canvass date must be no later than the 11<sup>th</sup> day following Election Day (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month).

In light of these reasons, City Staff makes the following suggestions for the Council’s Meeting schedule beginning in May 2023 and ending in May 2024 with all meetings beginning at 7 PM:

May 17, 2023 – Wednesday	December 18, 2023 – 3rd Monday
June 26, 2023 – 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	January 22, 2024 – 4th Monday
July 17, 2023 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	February 26, 2024 – 4th Monday
August 21, 2023 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	March 18, 2024 – 3rd Monday
September 18, 2023 – 3rd Monday	April 22, 2024 – 4th Monday
October 23, 2024 – 4th Monday	May 15, 2024 - Wednesday
November 27, 2024 – 4th Monday	

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, SETTING THE SCHEDULE FOR REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 2023 AND ENDING MAY 2024 IN ORDER TO MAKE THE COUNCIL’S MEETINGS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO ACCOMMODATE CONFLICTS WITH CITY HOLIDAYS, THE CITY ELECTION CYCLE, AND LOCAL SCHOOL SCHEDULES.

3. **Consider Ordinance No. 2023-03, amending Chapter 14, Article XV, Section 14-552 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jersey Village, entitled “General Additions” to provide a plumbing license exemption for property owner performing plumbing in the property owner’s homestead; providing a penalty; providing for severability; providing for publication; and providing an effective date.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As we continue to review city ordinances to conform with state law and to repeal ordinances that are no longer needed, City Staff is recommending the following changes

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to our plumbing and gas code. The change would simply conform to state law that allows plumbing work to be done in a property owner's homestead by the property owner themselves without having to hire a licensed plumber. This is already in state law, which overrules city ordinance on this, but staff wants to clear up any confusion that may be there on homeowners doing plumbing work in the property where they have their homestead.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE XV, SECTION 14-552 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, ENTITLED "GENERAL ADDITIONS" TO PROVIDE A PLUMBING LICENSE EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY OWNER PERFORMING PLUMBING IN THE PROPERTY OWNER'S HOMESTEAD; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- 4. Consider Ordinance No. 2023-04, amending the Jersey Village Code of Ordinances at Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 2, Section 2-142 to provide for revisions to the schedule of fees related to permits and other miscellaneous services.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Approximately every two years, City Staff looks at the fee ordinance for the City and makes recommendations for changes to the fee structure. Tonight, we are proposing to City Council a change in the fee structure that helps us stay on pace with surrounding communities while covering an appropriate amount of costs for the city.

In most cases the fees are being increased by 5%. The last change in fees happened back in 2021. Staff feels the 5% increase is a reasonable amount, while also staying within about 5-10% of what other communities are charging.

Fire Marshal and Fire Inspection fees are going up by a greater percentage. We were below the average of communities in the area, and this will bring us in line with other cities and allow for us to recapture more of our costs that are associated with doing these inspections.

Staff is proposing a \$5 per year increase on the annual resident family pool passes, and a \$1 increase for the day passes for residents. We are proposing a \$10 increase on the non-resident annual family pool pass and \$2 on the daily non-resident pool passes. We are also proposing a \$25 increase on the pool rental fees. Due to the large increase in pay we had to provide in order to get lifeguards, and the higher costs of operating the pool, we are proposing this increase. It also keeps us in the middle of the road compared to other cities and what they charge residents. We are on the high end of costs for the non-resident fees.

Staff is also recommending changes to the gazebo at Carol Fox Park and the Pavilion at Clark Henry. This increase of \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents is being driven

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by supply and demand. These facilities, especially the gazebo, are being utilized several times a day all weekend long.

We are proposing to add the Civic Center Auditorium and Municipal Meeting Room into the fee ordinance as well. As part of that we are proposing to allow non-profit and civic groups a discounted rate with a Facility Use Agreement.

Special event fees are also proposed to increase to match the costs that would be associated with the events. We have maybe one or two special event applications a year that would be impacted by this.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING THE JERSEY VILLAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-142 TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE OF FEES RELATED TO PERMITS; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEAL.

- 5. Consider Resolution No. 2023-06, authorizing the Fire Chief to apply for a grant through FEMA for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and, if approved and funded, authorizing the City Manager to add nine (9) new firefighters into the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On February 13 the FEMA Safer Grant program opened for 2023. The closing date is March 17. The guidance on the website still shows 2022 guidance. In an effort to seek federal funding and assist the City with paying for personnel, we formally request permission to apply again for the FEMA Safer Grant program.

We would like to apply for funding for nine more firefighters which would bring our shift numbers to eight per shift which is the overall intended goal. If there is a cost share, we plan to submit the option to pay for 1/3 of the cost (three firefighters) and SAFER would pay for 2/3 the cost or six firefighters. If no cost share exists we would ask for nine firefighters. If successful, the City would begin funding the approved positions in budget years 2027-2028. The program funding is for three years.

I am requesting Council to consider authorizing the Fire Chief to move forward with applying for the SAFER Grant and, if awarded and funded, authorize the City Manager to add new firefighters in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF TO APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH FEMA FOR STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) AND, IF APPROVED AND FUNDED, AUTHORIZING THE CITY

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MANAGER TO ADD NEW FIREFIGHTERS INTO THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET.

- 6. Consider Resolution No. 2023-07, authorizing the City Manager to enter in an Affiliation Agreement with Axon Education to permit the Jersey Village Fire Department EMS Staff to proctor Axon Education EMS students during 911 Response Training.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Axon Education EMS program trains their students in Emergency Medicine. Part of the process for students to become EMT's and Paramedics is to participate in ride-along programs for experience in emergency medicine. Jersey Village currently has 7 internal students attending Axon Education as Paramedic students. Axon has agreed to allow our staff to do ride-along requirements in house. However, doing this also opens us up to additional students from their program.

Attached is Axon Educations Agreement. The city attorney has reviewed the agreement with no changes to be made.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER IN AN AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH AXON EDUCATION TO PERMIT THE JERSEY VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT EMS STAFF TO PROCTOR AXON EDUCATION EMS STUDENTS DURING 911 RESPONSE TRAINING.

- 7. Consider Ordinance No. 2023-05, amending Chapter 18 “Businesses” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jersey Village, to add a new Article VI entitled “Short-Term Rental Registration” in order to provide a permitting process and related regulations for the operation of short-term rentals; providing a penalty; providing for severability; providing for publication; and providing an effective date.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

As directed by Council, City Staff has worked with the City Attorney and our Building Official to draft an ordinance as it relates to short-term rentals in the City. Tonight, we have an ordinance that would implement a permitting and inspection process for short-term rentals.

A separate piece to this topic will be in the zoning ordinance and will need to go through the Planning and Zoning Commission. The zoning ordinance to be proposed will have a separation requirement for short-term rentals and a specific use permit for the zoning commission to consider as well. It is expected the Zoning Commission will review the proposed ordinance in March, and final Council action is expected by May.

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Mr. Bless explained that deed restrictions are not enforceable by the City concerning those restrictions.

Tonight's ordinance establishes an annual permit and inspection process for short-term rentals. It also provides for the permits to be revoked if the rental poses a serious threat to the public health, safety, or welfare.

We believe this ordinance strikes the balance of protecting the interests of our community while also following the case law that currently exists. It should also be noted that there are several bills that are in the legislature right now that would limit the ability of cities to regulate many things, including short-term rentals, in a way that is more restrictive than the state. If those bills become law the City will have very few tools to protect the interests of the City and citizens when it comes to these types of issues.

City Council engaged in discussion about the proposed Ordinance. The application fee of \$250 was discussed. Some felt that this fee is too low. City Manager Bless explained that he feels that the fees stated in the proposed Ordinance cover the cost to the City. The Council also discussed the number of homes already located in Jersey Village. Some wondered if those homes are affected. City Attorney Pruitt explained that these are annual fees and those homes would need to comply.

The other code changes that will be needed were discussed and that those changes will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Setting fees to be a deterrent was discussed. City Attorney Pruitt explained that fees must be related to what it costs the City in terms of administrative time for processing, inspecting, and issuing of permits, etc. It was pointed out that it costs more for a permit to renovate your home than for the proposed fees for these short-term rentals. City Attorney Pruitt explained that City fees are not set to generate revenue, only to cover costs expended by the City. He did say that anytime those fees are not covering the costs expended by the City, the fees can be adjusted.

City Attorney Pruitt stated that should the fee be excessive, the City opens itself to a lawsuit by applicants. The work involved concerning this permit compared to that of a remodel permit is much; and therefore, the fee is less.

Some members felt that the fee should be higher. HOT taxes were discussed. City Attorney Pruitt explained that existing businesses are already being assessed HOT taxes. This ordinance is setting up a system to track these rentals with the ability to track violations etc. In keeping accurate records related to these rentals, there is the potential to deny future permits based upon violations of the City's Ordinances.

Violations were discussed. City Attorney Pruitt stated that all of our Ordinances apply to these rentals. For example, a fine for excessive noise.



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City Attorney Pruitt stated that there are no good court cases that support the out and out banning of these type rentals. Therefore, the ability to track the rentals and any violations will be helpful.

A California case was discussed. This case stated that short-term rentals are a residential use. City Attorney Pruitt went on to explain other cases that govern short-term rentals.

Capping short-term rentals was discussed. City Attorney Pruitt stated this could be regulated with a distance requirement in our zoning ordinance, but would have to go through the Planning and Zoning process.

Fire sprinkler systems were discussed. Some felt that our codes should be amended that these type rentals must be retrofitted to comply with a fire sprinkler system.

Public Parking was discussed. Having 12 cars per home is quite excessive. Some wondered what avenues the City might have to address this issue. City Attorney Pruitt stated that what ever parking requirements are outlined for a specific district will apply to these rentals as well.

The one-hour response time was discussed. Residents attending the meeting were asked if this would help. Most did not agree that this would help.

Mayor Warren stated that any regulations that we put into place must be enforceable. Banning is not an option. Therefore, we are currently focusing on ways to regulate, and we cannot forget that we already have Ordinances in place that regulate many of the concerns voiced by residents about these type rentals.

There was discussion about keys for rentals being controlled by the City. City Attorney Pruitt stated he could investigate this but did not feel it would be feasible.

Sec 18-204(b)(2) was discussed. Some felt that this section should be re-written that the property owner will need to be on the property within one-hour of the complaint. Most agreed with an amendment to this section to read: Who can respond in person on premise within one hour.

Insurance requirements were discussed. The proposed ordinance should be amended to include an insurance requirement. City Manager Bless read a requirement from another City concerning insurance as follows:

*“Proof of insurance required It shall be unlawful for the owner of premises operating as a short-term rental to operate without host protection or other liability insurance commensurate with the operations of the short-term rental that provides coverage of up to \$1 million per occurrence. A certificate of insurance must be on file with the Administrator. Proof of insurance shall be required at the time of application and notice of cancelation of insurance must be made to the Administrator within 30 days.”*

Council agreed with an amendment for insurance to follow this language.

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Short-term rentals with pools were discussed in terms of a distinction between residential and commercial pools.

Violations were then discussed again. Some wondered what the process would be when violations were encountered. City Manager Bless explained the actions that would take place. Some wondered if the response would be immediate, or would it follow the code enforcement rules of the City which are quite time consuming. It was determined that these enforcements would be immediate and would not have to go through the Code Enforcement Process.

City Attorney Pruitt explained the amendments to be added to the proposed ordinance as discussed by City Council.

It was reemphasized that we are restricted by case law and the State legislature concerning the regulation of these type rentals. Therefore, residents are encouraged to contact their State representatives concerning their concerns so they can also be addressed at the State level.

With no further discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023-05, amending Chapter 18 “Businesses” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jersey Village, to add a new Article VI entitled “Short-Term Rental Registration” in order to provide a permitting process and related regulations for the operation of short-term rentals; providing a penalty; providing for severability; providing for publication; and providing an effective date to include amendments to Section 18-204(b)(2) as discussed as well as an amendment to include a requirement for \$1M in insurance per occurrence. Council Member Sheppard seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Mitcham, Sheppard, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 18 “BUSINESSES” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE VI ENTITLED “SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGISTRATION” IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A PERMITTING PROCESS AND RELATED REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Items 7 was removed from the consent agenda. The discussion and vote for the removed item

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can be found under the appropriate Consent Agenda item. The vote for the remaining items NOT removed from the Consent Agenda is as follows:

Council Member Wasson moved to approve items 1 through 6 on the Consent Agenda. Council Member McCrea seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**G. REGULAR AGENDA**

- 1. Consider Resolution No. 2023-08, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Harris County for the Traffic Signal Controller Cabinet Beautification Program.**

Austin Bless, City Manager, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

The City has been approached by the Acton Academy Cy-Fair Art Club to paint a traffic control box located within the city. As the City does not own any of the traffic control boxes, it would have to be one of the boxes owned/operated by TXDOT or Harris County. Harris County has an easy process to follow. It would require an agreement of concurrence with the City. The County has specifications that they require to have as well.

Painting traffic control boxes is a simple but effective way to improve the aesthetic appeal of a City. These boxes, which are typically used to house traffic control equipment such as signal controllers, can often be an eyesore and detract from the overall appearance of a community. By painting these boxes with vibrant colors and engaging designs, they can become visually appealing elements of the urban landscape that enhance the overall ambiance of the surrounding area.

Another benefit of painting traffic control boxes is that it can help deter graffiti and vandalism. When boxes are left unadorned and plain, they can become targets for graffiti artists and vandals looking to leave their mark on the community. By painting these boxes with colorful designs, it can make it less appealing for these individuals to deface them with their own graffiti. Additionally, painted boxes can make it easier to identify instances of graffiti, which can be quickly cleaned up to maintain the visual appeal of the area.

Finally, painting traffic control boxes can also serve as a way to promote local art and artists. Many cities and towns have implemented public art programs that encourage local artists to create works of art that are displayed in public spaces. Painting traffic control boxes can be an extension of these programs, providing a canvas for artists to showcase their skills and adding to the cultural vibrancy of the community. By featuring local artists' work on these boxes, it can also help foster a sense of community pride and ownership in the artwork and the surrounding area.

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The location of the traffic control box is at the southwest corner of Jones Road and Seattle Slew Drive and is highlighted in yellow on the map below. This location was chosen due to the proximity of the school, and the traffic visibility.

With limited discussion on the matter, Council Member Mitcham moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-08, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Harris County for the Traffic Signal Controller Cabinet Beautification Program. Council Member Wasson seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Mitcham, Sheppard, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS COUNTY FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROLLER CABINET BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM.

**H. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.0415, City Council Members and City staff may make reports about items of community interest during a meeting of the governing body without having given notice of the report. Items of community interest include:

- Expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence;
- Information regarding holiday schedules;
- An honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public office or public employment is not an honorary or salutary recognition for purposes of this subdivision;
- A reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body;
- Information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; and
- Announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

**Council Member Mitcham:** Council Member Mitcham wished the Mayor a happy birthday.

**Council Member Sheppard:** Council Member Sheppard spoke to the Golf Course. She feels that due to the Wall Street Project and the Berm Project, the course provides benefit to all the

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community given it serves a part of our flood mitigation efforts. As such, it is important to note that more factors play into the role of the course than just whether or not the course is profitable.

**Council Member Wasson**: Council Member Wasson congratulated the employee of the month. He also thanked the scouts for coming out tonight. He mentioned that City Council has given Staff the authorization to apply for another SAFER grant. He thanked the Fire Department for their work on this grant.

**Council Member Singleton**: Council Member Singleton congratulated Kim on being selected as employee of the month. He gave background information about her qualifications. He is proud of her work and she is very well known throughout the County. He also thanked the scouts for coming.

**Council Member McCrea**: Council Member McCrea encouraged all to attend Founder’s Day and she recognized the JV swim team.

**Mayor Warren**: Mayor Warren thanked all for coming out tonight. He encouraged all to reach out with concerns to all of the members on Council. He also recognized the scouts for attending.

**I. RECESS THE REGULAR SESSION**

Mayor Warren recessed the Regular Session to Convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations, Sections 551.072 – Deliberations about Real Property and 551.071 – Consultations with Attorney at 8:22 p.m.

**J. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meeting Act Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations, Section 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property, and Section 551.071 Consultations with Attorney a closed meeting to deliberate information from a business prospect that the City seeks to locate in Jersey Village TIRZ Number 2 and economic development negotiations, including the possible purchase, exchange or value of real property, related thereto.
2. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meeting Act Section 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property and Section 551.071 Consultations with Attorney, a closed meeting to deliberate the potential and possible purchase, exchange, sale, or value of real property, located within TIRZ3.

**K. ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Warren adjourned the Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Session, stating that no final actions, decisions, or votes were had during the Executive Session.

**L. RECONVENE THE REGULAR SESSION**

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS – FEBRUARY 27, 2023

**1. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding items discussed in closed session regarding the potential and possible sale, exchange or value of real property, located within TIRZ3.**

Austin Bless, City Manager, introduced the item, stating that this item is to take any action necessary after the Executive Session.

With limited discussion on the item, Council Member Singleton moved that the City Manager be directed to list the properties at 15417 Jersey Dr, 15418 Jersey Dr, 15517 Jersey Drive, 15525 Jersey Drive for sealed bid with the stipulation that new construction on the lots shall begin within one year of the purchase date. Council Member Sheppard seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Mitcham, Sheppard, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Council Member Singleton then moved to authorize the sale of the lot at 15522 Jersey Drive to the previous owner Ron D'Amico for the price discussed in executive session. Council Member Sheppard seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Mitcham, Sheppard, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**M. ADJOURN**

There being no further business on the agenda the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.



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Lorri Coody, TRMC, City Secretary