

Minutes

January 11th, 2019 @ 10:00 am
Special Meeting

1. Call to Order @ 10:03 am.
2. Roll Call: Fladmark, McDonald, Austin, Sestito, and Harrison. Hamaker absent. Quorum was established with Mayor Austin presiding.
3. Open the floor to allow property owner comment and input on the following:
 - a. The purchase and development of property located at 805 Oak Circle; and
 - b. Pursuit of economic development initiatives, views on community needs and services desired for the future of the City.

Mayor Austin asked for Frank Martin, Maintenance Supervisor, to speak on the item of roads before moving to the open floor. Mr. Martin spoke about the timeline and maintenance of road repair.

Mayor Austin asked that Item B be addressed before Item A.

Item B: The following citizens addressed the council and were each given three minutes to speak on various issues pertaining to economic development initiatives, views on community needs, and services desired for the future of the city:

Barbara Whitfill – Stated that we are a bedroom community and that is all we are ever going to be and that we need to work with what we already have.

Robert Tatum – Spoke to the City's clean up efforts and asked that they be increased.

Jerry Slovak – Spoke requested that the City consider governing residential properties that are being used as weekend and summer rental homes.

Roland Napoles – Stated his support of Ms. Whitfill's opinion earlier and that the City cannot support economic development. He urged Council to finish roads before pursuit of economic development.

Carol Taylor – Expressed similar concern for weekend and summer rentals and added that she would like to see restaurants in the City.

Daniel Martin – Supports economic development even if it's on a small scale. His thoughts are based on 13 years of municipal experience and that this is a great opportunity to prepare for growth and determine ways to best control the growth. He stated that you cannot wait until growth is here to try and prepare and control it.

Lynn Shackelford – Signed up but did not wish to comment.

Stephanie Love – Supports control of the weekend rentals and would like to see big city decisions made together.

Dale Price - Signed up but did not wish to comment.

Phil Ringley – Supports continued clean up efforts and recommended "yellow box" for trash haul offs.

Earl Kincade – Asked that Council not talk themselves out of development and that if you want development then to go for it now and don't wait.

Betty Gordon – Spoke regarding synergy and using community resources.

Mike Dumont – Asked about recycling and continued efforts.

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Jeff Baslic – Asked that the City's requirements to enhance property be made easier to understand. Recommended communication through POA groups.

Valerie Martin – Spoke in support of development now, stated waiting ten years to consider and plan for development would not work.

Terri Gregory – Spoke on the restrictions of the City and the limitations these restrictions put on property owner's ability to enhance their properties. Also requested a bulk pick up service.

Item A: Mayor Austin explained that she believes one of the biggest downfalls is that Tool does not have a town square. The following citizens addressed the council and were each given three minutes to speak on various issues regarding the purchase and development of property located at 805 Oak Circle:

Barbara Whitfill – Questioned whether a City Center increases grant opportunities and asked that Council not only consider the upfront cost of the property but also ongoing maintenance and insurance. Stated that she was not a vote against improvements that she just wanted to know the plan.

Jerry Slovak – Spoke in favor of the purchase and asked that Council think it all the way through.

Roland Napoles – Argued that this item was ineligible for discussion since it was voted down at last meeting.

Carol Taylor – Spoke in favor of the purchases stating, "I think this is a great idea".

Daniel Martin – Spoke in favor stating that this was an ideal purchase and that the City needed this land in addition to the park which he called "critical" to have. He also stated that he loved the new marquee and supported bringing new City Services to the area.

Lynn Shackleford – Expressed concerns of putting the cart before the horse since there is no plan for the purchase.

Stephanie Love – Showed support of the property purchases indicating that if the City doesn't buy it, she would and offered her services to provide a land plan.

Dale Price – Questioned the land not being on a major road.

Phil Ringley – Supported "cart before the horse" idea and would like to see a comprehensive plan for the property before its purchase. He also stated concerns of an illegal executive session at the last meeting indicating his intent to elevate his concerns to the Attorney General.

Larry Kraus – Supported the purchases indicating that this opportunity would not be available if we wait to do a comp plan and felt that this land creates a positive environment for the City. She also supported the City's efforts for transparency and felt that they did a good job at this.

Valarie Martin – Spoke to Mr. Ringley informing that the vote down at the last meeting was so that a public forum could be heard and that is was not a vote against. Council Member McDonald argues that it was voted down. Ms. Martin continued stating that as Citizens, we vote Council in to make these decisions for us and although the Public Forum is nice, we need to trust those we vote in to decide for us. In closing she added that being able to do this without a tax increase makes it even better and affords more space for events.

Liz Mellor – Spoke to the future of the City and her and her husbands desire to move here full time after retirement. She doesn't want to wait until that time for development o happen, she would like for the City to start that now. She also spoke against the "cart before the horse" idea stating that the opportunity is now, not later.

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Lisa McDonald – Believed that all of Council was in favor of development and the question was do we have the funds to do this. She stated that the City already has 12 acres and questioned the need for more. She also reminded everyone that the City was still in the process of deciding to make a large equipment purchase for the Maintenance Department.

Kristy Taylor – Recommended the pursuit of grants and an economic development committee.

Billie Hathaway – Spoke in support of the purchase.

Jan Webber – Stated that she did not want to wait 10 years to do something and would like the city to be progressive.

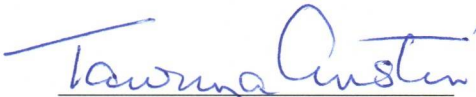
Cherry Ringley – Expressed concerns of ongoing maintenance of the facilities and the need for volunteers.

The Council spoke and thanked everyone for their opinions and for the turnout.

City Secretary Lyons spoke to address some of the concerns regarding both items A and B.


4. Adjourned @ 11:41 am.

Passed and Approved this 20th day of February 2020:


Tawnya Austin, Mayor



Attest:


Makenzie Lyons, City Secretary