

KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING | FEBRUARY 18, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 405 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, KENNEDALE, TX 76060

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brad Horton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

The Mayor and all other members of the City Council were in attendance, thus constituting a quorum.

The City Manager, City Secretary, department directors, and other various staff were also present.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS

"Honor the Texas Flag; I Pledge Allegiance to Thee, Texas, One State under God; One and Indivisible."

Place 5 Nevarez offered the invocation, followed by the Pledges to the American and Texas flags led by Mayor Pro Tem Michels.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Kennedale City Council welcomes comments from the public. Those wishing to speak must sign in prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers may speak on any topic, whether on the agenda or not. The Kennedale City Council cannot act upon, discuss issues raised or make any decisions at this time. Speakers under citizens' comments shall observe a three-minute time limit. Inquiries regarding matters not listed on this agenda may be referred to staff for research and/or possible future action by the board.

Sara Johnson, 221 Village St. City Council complaint.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Oath of Office Presented to Fire Captain Joey Craddock

Fire Chief Peterson issued the Oath of Office to Fire Captain Joey Craddock.

B. Presentation of the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award to City of Kennedale Police Department

A representative from FBI-LEEDA was in attendance to present Chief Holguin and the Police Department with the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award.

C. 2024 City of Kennedale Library, Communications, and Senior Center Annual Reports

Library and Communications Director Elizabeth Partridge presented the 2024 Annual Report, highlighting key updates across the Library, Senior Center, and Communications Department.

There has been a notable increase in library services, including a 45% rise in electronic material checkouts over the past three years, a 46% increase in library card issuance, a 110% increase in program attendance, and a 138% rise in summer reading program participation. The library also received the 2024 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association.

Senior Center activity has increased, with a 59% rise in meal orders and a 137% increase in breakfast participation. Overall, activities such as crafting, education, and arts have grown by 36%.

The Communications Department continues to engage citizens through various media platforms, including the city website, social media, and Nextdoor, ensuring effective communication and collaboration for events like Hometown Christmas.

D. 2024 City of Kennedale Municipal Court Annual Report

Court Administrator Bertha Vindel presented the 2024 Municipal Court Annual Report. She provided an overview of the municipal court's duties, which include the interpretation and adjudication of applicable state laws, hearings for property and animal seizures, dangerous dog cases, and serving as a mediator between citizens and police.

Ms. Vindel reported a significant 208% increase in court dates since 2021, with a 102% increase in court filings. Additional updates included the hiring of a new court clerk in 2024, the service of 2,276 customers at the court window, and 63,021 total transactions. Notably, the court hosted its first bicycle safety event and successfully implemented a new diversion program.

E. 2024 City of Kennedale Finance Department Annual Report

Finance Director Jonathan Horton presented the 2024 Finance Department Annual Report. Mr. Horton highlighted key accomplishments, including the completion of a Water Rate Study, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, new software implementation, and updates to finance policies. He also shared that the City of Kennedale received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Additionally, the city's bond rating was upgraded from AA- to AA.

F. 2024 City of Kennedale Community Development Annual Report

Community Development Director Nathan Gonzales presented his departmental report, covering city planning, building inspections, code compliance, and other areas within the department. Mr. Gonzales highlighted the addition of a Planning Technician and a Code Compliance Officer to the development staff.

Key updates included the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan in September 2024, the implementation of new permitting software, improved performance data

and tracking, and an expected increase in departmental revenue. Mr. Gonzales reported the following changes:

- A 24.4% increase in permit applications
- A 68.6% increase in permits and licenses
- A 28.2% rise in code complaints
- A 68.75% decrease in new residential projects
- No change in new commercial projects

IV. REGULAR SESSION

A. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In addition to any items below, the Kennedale City Council, the presiding officer, and/or staff may give or receive reports regarding items of community interest, including, but not limited to, recognition of officials, citizens, staff, or departments; information regarding holiday schedules; and upcoming or attended events.

1. Updates from the City of Kennedale Mayor and City Council

The City Council and Mayor gave updates on items of public interest, including Black History Month, YMCA Chili Cook Off, and Coffee with the Mayor.

2. Updates from the City of Kennedale City Manager

a. 380 Agreement with MKP and Associates

City Manager Darrell Hull advised that his meeting regarding the 380 Agreement with MKP had been rescheduled and that an update would be to the council in the near future.

3. Financial Reports for the City and/or the EDC

Finance Director Jonathan Horton gave an update on the City of Kennedale's financial outlook.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

These matters have appeared on previous agendas, require little or no deliberation, or are considered routine or ministerial tasks. If discussion is desired, items may be removed for separate consideration.

1. January 21, 2025 City Council Minutes

2. 2024 Racial Profiling Report and the Texas Police Chiefs Association Recognition Program Annual Report from the Police Department

Mayor Pro Tem Michels made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Place 5 Nevarez seconded the motion.

No opposition, No abstentions

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

C. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

1. Discuss and take action to hire Westwood Engineering for any upcoming engineering projects. - Action Item

Place 1 Glover made a motion to approve Westwood Engineering for upcoming engineering projects.

Place 2 Kobeck seconded the motion.

No opposition, No abstentions

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

2. Discuss and take action to fund a preliminary study for the design and construction of the baseball fields by Callahan and Freeman Architects. - Action Item

The City Council, City Manager, and representatives from Callahan and Freeman Architects discussed the funding for a preliminary study for the design and construction of the baseball fields. City Manager Hull advised that the funding of the project will be allocated from the voter-approved bond which had been issued previously. The Council continued discussion on the project, including options that would allow for the purchase of more land, and the upgrades to the fields.

Place 5 Nevarez made a motion to approve action to fund a preliminary study for the design and construction of the baseball fields by Callahan and Freeman Architects.

Place 1 Glover seconded the motion.

No opposition, No abstentions

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

3. Discuss and take action on the approval of Amendment No. 1 for Valley Lane Streambank Stabilization. - Action Item

Director of Public Works Kristian Sugrim and the council discussed the amendment for the Valley Lane Streambank Stabilization Project. Mr. Sugrim advised the council that, as of April 2022, the City of Kennedale had submitted the Valley Lane Streambank Stabilization project application to the Texas Department of Emergency Management. The project will stabilize approximately 1,965 feet along Valley Lane from West Kennedale Parkway to West Dick Price Road. Mr. Sugrim stated that on January 6, 2023, the Texas Water Development Board approved Kennedale's final engineering feasibility report for the project, and subsequently approved a grant under the Flood Infrastructure Fund for \$432,285. Mr. Sugrim and the council discussed the project's increased costs due to a requested environmental impact assessment by FEMA.

Place 1 Glover made a motion to approve Amendment No. 1 for Valley Lane Streambank Stabilization.

Mayor Pro Tem Michels seconded the motion.

No opposition, Place 2 Kobeck abstained

Vote: 4-0-1 Motion passed

4. Discuss and take action on an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County, Texas, for reconstruction of Eden Road S. from Kennedale Parkway to Hudson Village Creek. - Action Item

Mayor Pro Tem Michels motioned to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County, Texas, for reconstruction of Eden Road S. from Kennedale Parkway to Hudson Village Creek.

Place 5 Nevarez seconded the motion.

No opposition, No abstentions

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

5. Discuss and take action on an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County, Texas, for reconstruction of South New Hope Road from the railroad crossing to Hudson village Creek. - Action Item

Mayor Pro Tem Michels motioned to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County, Texas, for reconstruction of South New Hope Road from the railroad crossing to Hudson village Creek.

Place 5 Nevarez seconded the motion.

No opposition, No abstentions

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

6. Discuss and take action on an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County, Texas, for reconstruction of Swiney Hiatt Rd., from Collett Sublett Rd. to Joplin Rd. - Action Item

Mayor Pro Tem Michels motioned to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County, Texas, for reconstruction of Swiney Hiatt Rd., from Collett Sublett Rd. to Joplin Rd.

Place 5 Nevarez seconded the motion.

No opposition, No abstentions

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE. If, during the course of the meeting and discussion of any items covered by this notice, the Kennedale City Council determines that a Closed or Executive session of the Board is required, then such closed meeting will be held as authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.071 consultation with counsel on legal matters; Section 551.074 personnel matters (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or (2) to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee. (b) Subsection (a) does not apply if the officer or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing. Section 551.072 - deliberation regarding purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; Section 551.073 - deliberation regarding a prospective gift; Section 551.087 - deliberation regarding economic development negotiation; Section 551.089 - deliberation regarding security devices or security audits, and/or other matters as authorized under the Texas Government Code. If a Closed or Executive Session is held in accordance with the Texas Government Code as set out above, the Kennedale City Council will reconvene in Open Session in order to take action, if necessary, on the items addressed during Executive Session.

- A. PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.0171** - consultation with the City Attorney pertaining to any matter in which the duty of the City Attorney under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct may conflict with the Open Meetings Act, including discussion of any item posted on the agenda, legal issues regarding the Open Meetings Act, to discuss pending and contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer.

1. Code Enforcement complaint

- B. PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.087** - to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations.

1. Prospective 380 Agreements

Place 1 Glover motioned to adjourn into executive session at 7:46 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Michels seconded the motion.

No opposition, No abstentions

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

VI. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION, AND TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The council reconvened from executive session at 9:04 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Place 5 Nevarez motioned to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Place 2 Kobeck seconded the motion.

There being no further business, Mayor Horton adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:


MAYOR BRAD HORTON

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY BOBBIE JO TAYLOR

