

KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING | July 7, 2017

KENNEDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY CENTER, 316 W 3RD STREET

REGULAR SESSION at 8:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Brian Johnson, Rockie Gilley (Place 1), Sandra Lee (Place 3), Kelly Turner (Place 4), Mayor Pro Tem Jan Joplin (Place 5)

Absent: Liz Carrington (Place 2)

Staff: *City Manager George Campbell, City Secretary & Communications Coordinator Leslie Galloway, Human Resources Director Kelly Cooper, Finance Director Brady Olsen, Community Development Director Rachel Roberts, (Library Director Amanda King in audience)*

III. LONG RANGE PLANNING AND GOAL SESSION

A. Presentation and discussions regarding the City's long range plans and establishing goals, objectives and priorities pertaining to current and future issues affecting the city, including but not limited to the following:

- Budget priorities;
- Water and sewer rates;
- Development and growth objectives;
- Race tracks; and
- Alternate sources of water.

Pursuant to the "Working Agenda" (attached), the following discussions took place:

City Manager George Campbell stated that staff needs to understand the current Council's desired direction for the community so that they can effectively move toward those goals.

Karen Walz, founder of Strategic Government Solutions, stated that this meeting was an opportunity for Council and staff to discuss the future of the community by: discussing issues, vision, and direction for the City; focusing on selected issues that are Council priorities for long-term success; reaching a common understanding about operations issues, roles, and responsibilities; and agreeing on a set of next steps.

She added that these objectives would be sought through the following tasks: defining and understanding our starting point; collaborating on long-term issues; discussing of effective leadership in a Council-Manager form of government; and defining of constructive communications between Council and staff.

Council and staff defined and discussed the unique strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) facing the City:

STRENGTHS | growing tax base; quality of staff and department heads; location; size (small in a large Metroplex); regional partnerships (e.g., Tarrant County); development opportunities; diversity; citizens' sense of community; quality of the library; resilience; emergency protection (police and fire departments); and citizens' desire to see Kennedale become a thriving city

WEAKNESSES | loss of institutional knowledge; relating to the citizens as a whole; a small staff and high turnover leads to stress and uncertainty; being a small community in such a large metro area means residents sometimes expect a more robust service and program delivery than is feasible; low staff morale; lack of affordable housing; lack of citizen involvement; long-term financial stability; staff wears many hats; lack of 'economy of scale'; and limited land means there is limited opportunity for strategic growth

OPPORTUNITIES | increased sales tax revenue; City has built a good regional reputation over past decade, leading to opportunities to learn about and participate in regional programs or grants; new participants in government (council, staff, citizens); attracting more businesses; redevelopment; location in DFW; many highly skilled people in area; community events; transit; and the large number of cities to look to for best practices

THREATS | racetracks; salvage yards; infrastructure collapse; rising intergovernmental costs; rising tax burden on residents; forgetting what Kennedale means to residents; large cities on borders overwhelming us; sharing borders with areas with depressed economies; outside interests can influence a City that lacks a defined direction or plan; centralized planning; and regional population growth causes continually increased costs of limited resources (e.g., water)

Council and staff focused on the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Council, the staff, and the community in their efforts to build on these perceived strengths and opportunities and address the weaknesses and threats. Discussion also included the development of 'ground rules' for constructive communication, decision-making, and agreement-building.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session at this time.

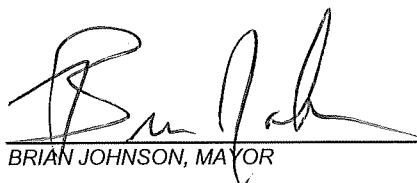
V. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION, AND TAKE ACTION NECESSARY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF NEEDED

No action taken.

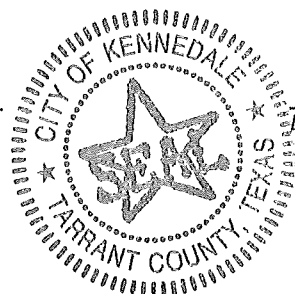
VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

APPROVED:


BRIAN JOHNSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:




LESLIE GALLOWAY, CITY SECRETARY

ATTACHMENT:
WORKING AGENDA
July 7, 2017

This meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast will be provided beginning about 7:30 a.m. A working lunch will also be provided. It is an all-day session that is expected to last until about 6:00 p.m.

- Retreat Overview and Introductions
- Understanding Our Starting Point (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats)
- Collaboration on Long-Term Issues
 - Quality of Municipal Services
 - Economic Development
 - City – Citizen Relationships
- Effective Leadership in a City Council – City Manager Government
- Constructive Communication
- Wrap Up and Next Steps
- Executive Session
- Adjourn