



**MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
March 9, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Forest Hill met on the above date at **6:00 p.m.** with Mayor James Gosey presiding. The following Council Members and officials were present: Council Members Damian Dalcour, Lyndia Thomas, Gerald Joubert, Dulani Masimini, Andrew Sanders, Acting City Manager Debbie Maness, Acting City Secretary Grace Edwards, Interim Police Chief Robert Herbert and Fire Chief Pat Ekiss, Public Works Supervisor Roberto Duenes, Director of Economic Development & Community Relations, Venus Wehle, Acting City Attorney Alicia Johnson.

Opening Agenda:

A. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mayor Gosey called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

B. Invocation

Invocation was delivered by Council Member Thomas.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to Flags

Pledge to the United States and Texas flags were recited.

D. Citizens Presentation: At this time, any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Council. No formal action can be taken on these items at this meeting.

Ray Rhyne, 3720 Grady – Mr. Rhyne had concerns regarding the recall petitions that he signed, Mr. Rhyne stated that he was informed by an unknown source that his name was removed from the petition and he feels that it is wrong. Mr. Rhyne brought a copy of his voter registration card to provide verification of his signature.

Meto Metiff, 701 S. Industrial Blvd, Euless, Texas, 76104 – Mr. Metiff says he does not understand where the rumors about disbanding the police department came from. Mr. Metiff states that he is not for this change nor does he feel that the city council is for this change. In conclusion, Mr. Metiff is hopeful that Sheriff Anderson will be successful in assuring the residents that this is only a rumor, and no action has been taken in this direction.

Bob Shanklin, 3716 Orchard – Mr. Shanklin stated that he was here to voice his opinion on keeping the police department intact. Mr. Shanklin states that under no circumstances is he in favor of disbanding the police department. Consequently, Mr. Shanklin feels that this action would leave the city unprotected and crime would skyrocket.

Gladys Hardeman, 4202 Burly – Mrs. Hardeman states that we have a fine police department and she feels that the police department should be kept intact. Mrs. Hardeman feels that we do not need the sheriffs department to run our city. Mrs. Hardeman reiterates that she is against changing the name of Griggs Park.

Mayor James Gosey, - Mayor Gosey stated that the police association should have at least sat down with the council before starting a petition. Mayor Gosey also stated that in order to create a positive and proper relationship in the community we should communicate more. Mayor Gosey states that he feels the police association responded to something that the previous city manager had only inquired about. In conclusion, Mayor Gosey reiterated that city council has never spoke to anyone regarding disbanding the police department.

Meto Metiff, 701 S. Industrial Blvd., Euless, Texas 76104 –Mr. Metiff states that there have been questions as to why this is on the ballot. Mr. Metiff states that the police department can choose to remove the proposition from the ballot if they choose to do so. The police association can simply withdraw their petition and this item will not be placed on the ballot.

Helen Collins Epps, 3509 Lon Stephenson – Mrs. Epps thanked the council for clarifying their feelings regarding the disbanding of the police department. Mrs. Epps thanked the audience for coming to the council meeting.

Brenda Scruggs, 8132 Hostoway, Fort Worth, Texas 76123 – Mrs. Scruggs states that she is coming before the council because she supports the city, and wants to make sure the City of Forest Hill moves forward.

Barbara Estes, 6713 Alma - Ms. Estes feels that all the citizens will lose if the propositions on the ballot are passed. Mrs. Estes says that the city is unclean and she feels the code enforcement department needs to improvement.

Joyce Wright, 7415 Forest Hill Drive – Ms. Wright appreciates the police department and the safety that the police department provides. In addition, Ms. Wright also feels that the residents should be the deciding factor when making decisions regarding the Forest Hill Police Department.

Sgt. Cosby, Forest Hill Police Officer, and Member of the Forest Hill Police Association – Sgt. Cosby states that they did not know who was or who was not for the disbanding of the police department, when the issue presented itself. The police association moved forward with the petition because the issue caused major concern. Sgt. Cosby states that the police association wanted the citizens to decide if they wanted to keep local control of the Forest Hill Police Department.

Barbara Guereca, 6413 Embassy Drive – Ms. Guereca wants a police department that will be available when and if an emergency arises. Furthermore, Ms. Guereca stated that the people want the Forest Hill Police Department to stay intact.

Barbara Estes, 6713 Alma – Mrs. Estes informed the city council that the Forest Hill Police Department knocked at her door at 2:00 a.m. in the morning because their car door and trunk were left open. The police department was kind enough to inform them of the oversight, and Mrs. Estes commended the police department for their efforts.

Mr. Don Cecil, 7415 Forest Hill Drive – Mr. Cecil states that as a city we should be proud of our council. Mr. Cecil feels that Tarrant County Sheriffs Department will not have a swift response time, because of the distance they would have to drive. In addition, Mr. Cecil encourages the residents to try to understand what the City Council wants for the City of Forest Hill.

Mrs. Donna Cecil, 7415 Forest Hill Drive – Mrs. Cecil states that the Forest Hill Police Department has always been helpful and made their presence known in the community. Mrs.

Cecil thanked the Council for doing their jobs. In addition, Mrs. Cecil encouraged all the residents of our great city to work together.

Mayor Gosey, assured the residents, that the Mayor and Council would like nothing better than to provide a safe community for the residents of Forest Hill and no one on the Council wants to disband the police department.

E. Deliberation Agenda:

1. Discuss and consider possible action on an update of the City Hall Building located at 3219 California Parkway.

There was no action taken on this item.

2. Discuss and consider possible action on changing the name of Griggs Park to Jewell Kelly Park.

This item was table by Council Member Masimini until the May 18, 2010 regular council meeting.

3. Discuss and consider possible action on financial exigency.

This item was tabled by Council Member Masimini until April 6, 2010.

4. Discuss and consider possible action on a Request for City Attorney and City Prosecutor.
Council Member Thomas motioned to go out for bids/proposals for a permanent City Attorney and City Prosecutor, effective in the next ten (10) days, and post for thirty (30) days, seconded by Council Member Sanders, which *passed* as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Gosey, and Council Members Dalcour, Thomas, Joubert, Masimini, Mayor Pro Tem Sami

Nays: None

5. Discuss and consider possible action on rescheduling or cancelling the March 16, 2010 regular council meeting, due to lack of quorum.

Mayor Pro Tem Sami motioned to cancel the March 16, 2010 regular council meeting, Seconded by Council Member Thomas, which *passed* as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Gosey, and Council Member Dalcour, Thomas, Joubert, Mayor Pro Tem Sami

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Masimini left the room at 7:04 p.m. and returned at 7:06 p.m.

- F. Presentation: Dee Anderson, Tarrant County Sheriff's Department** – to give a presentation with regard to Tarrant County providing public safety services to the citizens of Forest Hill.

Sheriff Dee Anderson expressed that he was happy to clear the air on how conversations developed with the former city manager regarding the Sheriff's Department possibly providing public safety services for the City of Forest Hill. Dee Anderson stated, the former city manager and himself have some what of a history, both are residents of the City of Kennedale and the former city manager was the city manager for the City of Kennedale prior to becoming the City Manager for the City of Forest Hill. The former city manager stated that he was under a mandate to save money. In that effort, to find ways to save money, the former city manager asked Sheriff Anderson what kind of substantial savings could the Sheriff's Department provide. This was initially how the conversations began, Sheriff Anderson stated. Sheriff Anderson also stated that the conversations never went further than just a conversation. However, the Sheriff's Department did gathered some

information and statistics to provide some possibilities for the former city manager. Dee Anderson also shared with the residents, mayor, and council that he feels there have been some misconceptions regarding the Sheriff's Department coming in and taking over. Sheriff Anderson feels that the statements are essentially rumors and mistruths. Sheriff Anderson reemphasized that his department would never try to come in and take over. The conversations with the former city manager were very limited in nature. Furthermore, Sheriff Anderson states that the Sheriff's Department does not go out and proposition or solicit for public safety services.

Council Member Joubert felt it was important for the citizens to know that the city council had a budget workshop, and the council charged the former city manager with finding a way to bring taxes down. Council Member Joubert feels that the former city manager approached Dee Anderson for this purpose. Once the information got out to the general public it took legs of its own. Additionally, Council Member Joubert shared with the citizens that the information obtained by the former city manager never made it back to the council. The former city manager was trying to save money. Subsequently, this is why everyone is here tonight. In conclusion, the council did not direct the former city manager to solicit services from Tarrant County Sheriffs Department.

Residents, mayor and council had various questions regarding exactly how much savings would Tarrant County Sheriff's Department be able to provide. Response time, how many vehicles would patrol the City of Forest Hill, and if the taxes will increase, were major topics for discussion. Sheriff Anderson was unprepared to give specifics, as well as figures at that time. In conclusion, Sheriff Anderson did express to the residents, mayor and council that he would be more than happy to provide specifics and figures upon request. Mayor, council and residents thanked Sheriff Anderson for his input and attendance.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, the Council reserves the right to convene in Executive Session(s) from time to time as deemed necessary during this meeting for any posted agenda item, to receive advice from its attorney as permitted by law.

6. Section 551.074, Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters (a)(1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, employment evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee:

- a) Review and discuss the terms of the City Manager's Contract
- b) Discuss Interim City Manager

Mayor Pro Tem Sami left during executive session.

G. Reconvene into regular session.

The Council reconvened into regular session at 10:41 p.m.

H. Take any action necessary pursuant to executive session.

Council Member Thomas motioned to meet terms discussed in executive session regarding the current City Manager, Seconded by Council Member Masimini, which passed as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Gosey, and Council Members Sanders, Thomas Joubert Masimini, Dalcour

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Sami

I. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the council adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Grace Edwards, Acting City Secretary

James Gosey, Mayor