

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

The Parker City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at Parker City Hall, 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas, 75002.

Mayor Z Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members Cindy Meyer, Lee Pettie, Cleburne Raney, and Ed Standridge were present. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Levine was absent.

Staff Present: City Administrator Jeff Flanigan, Finance/H.R. Manager Johnna Boyd, City Secretary Patti Scott Grey, City Attorney Brandon Shelby, Fire Chief Mike Sheff, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Barnaby, and Police Chief Richard Brooks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMERICAN PLEDGE: Billy Barron led the pledge.

TEXAS PLEDGE: Randy Kercho led the pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS The City Council invites any person with business before the Council to speak. No formal action may be taken on these items at this meeting. Please keep comments to 3 minutes.

Mayor Marshall noted there were three (3) comment cards. He asked if those individuals would prefer speaking during the public comment time or when the item was presented. They decided to speak when their item was presented.

CONSENT AGENDA Routine Council business. Consent Agenda is approved by a single majority vote. Items may be removed for open discussion by a request from a Councilmember or member of staff.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2018. [SCOTT GREY]
2. DEPARTMENT REPORTS-ANIMAL CONTROL, BUILDING, COURT, FIRE, POLICE AND WEBSITE

Police Chief Brooks said a year ago the Police Department started a new police report and there has been no comparison data. The January 2018 report has the first comparison information. Although staff has been trained on how to count various services, he noted there was some duplication while staff became familiar with the counting method. He reviewed some of the duplicated data areas and commented the data over the next year would be more closely aligned, particularly under the incident, criminal investigations, and the outside agency activities portions of the report. Chief Brooks addressed the -428% reduction in "Calls for Service", and stated once the City of Parker goes to the Records Management System/Mobile Data (CAD/MD) system, it will no longer be a manual system of tracking incidents and the data will be much more accurate.

3. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CANCELING THE MARCH 6, 2018 REGULAR MEETING DUE TO PRIMARY ELECTION DAY VOTING, 7AM-7PM. [FLANIGAN]

MOTION: Councilmember Pettie moved to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Councilmember Standridge seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Pettie, Raney, and Standridge voting for the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE PVFD PILOT PROGRAM - 90 DAYS EVAL. EFFECTIVENESS. [SHEFF]

Fire Chief Sheff reviewed the Parker Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) Pilot Program and its effectiveness since its inception October 1st or some 90+ days ago and recommended continuing the program with the approved funds through the remainder of this fiscal year.

Billy Barron, 6707 Overbrook Drive, said staffing the Fire Department was of utmost importance, especially the night shift. Mr. Barron said he would like to have a paid fire department with volunteer support; however, the PVFD Pilot Program with the night shift stipend was "better than nothing". He supported continuing this program and also suggested extending certain work shifts for better coverage during peak morning and evening hours, as indicated by Chief Sheff.

MOTION: Councilmember Raney moved to approve continuation of the Parker Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) pilot program for the night shift stipend with the funds allocated August 29, 2017. Those funds will be used for the remainder of this fiscal year or until funds are expended at which time Chief Sheff will return with a presentation of costs and additional details for City Council review. Councilmember Pettie seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Pettie, Raney, and Standridge voting for the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON SYCAMORE ESTATES PHASE 2 MINOR PLAT. [SHELBY]

MOTION: Councilmember Pettie moved to approve the Sycamore Estates Phase 2 minor plat, as presented (This action would remove a (+/-) 3.58 acre tract of land from the Parker Ranch Estates Phase 2 plat.). Councilmember Raney seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Pettie, Raney, and Standridge voting for the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

6. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON PARKER RANCH ESTATES PHASE 2 AND 3 FINAL PLAT. [SHELBY/FLANIGAN]

Mayor Marshall reviewed the item.

Tony Shaw, First Texas Homes, 500 Crescent Court, Suite 35, Dallas, Texas, 75201, stated his name and business address for the record.

Mayor Marshall noted two letters in the City Council packet, one for Parker Ranch Estates Phase 2 (II) and one for Phase 3 (III), from City Engineer John Birkhoff, dated February 14. The Mayor then verified the drainage channel repair work, the placing of erosion control matts, and the establishment of vegetation in the Parker Ranch Estates Phase 3 (III) letter, was complete. Mr. Shaw said the work was completed and City Administrator Flanigan agreed. With that, the City Engineer recommended

the development plats be accepted. [See Exhibit 1 – City Engineer John W. Birkhoff, P. E.'s letters, dated February 14, 2018 – Parker Ranch Estates Phase II and III.]

MOTION: Councilmember Standridge moved to approve Parker Ranch Estates Phase 2 and 3 final plat, as presented. Councilmember Raney seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Pettie, Raney, and Standridge voting for the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 758, AMENDING AND RESTATING THE PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 621 THE PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS. [SHELBY]

Terry Lynch, 5809 Middleton Drive, said she was surprised by the low speed limits being proposed for Parker city streets, especially with no backup documentation or explanation to support the low speed limits. As she understood it, the state recommended 30 mph. Ms. Lynch asked why the residents and visitors in her neighborhood will be required to drive at a "snail's pace". Ms. Lynch also asked why it was being proposed to have speed limit signs on every subdivision street. She suggested having speed limit signs at the entrances/exits to subdivisions. She noted if there are no posted speed limit signs, the default state limit would be 30 mph. Today, she travelled through Allen, Frisco, Lucas, and McKinney and found no residential streets where the speed limits inside the subdivisions were lower than 30 mph or no limits were listed, indicating 30 mph speed limits.

Mayor Marshall read an email from John Barber, 4905 Hackberry Lane, and asked that the email be entered into the record. [See Exhibit 2 – John Barber's February 20, 2018, 3:26 p.m. email, regarding speed limits and stop signs on Springhill Estates Rd.]

City Attorney Shelby said the Transportation Code gives the governing body the authority to set the speed limits within the corporate limits.

Mayor Marshall asked the City Administrator to address the history or how the original speed limits were established. City Administrator Flanigan said he was not sure he was with the City of Parker in the beginning when all the speed limits were originally determined; however, the 25 mph speed limits in the residential subdivisions had a lot to do with the curvilinear street requirements in the subdivision regulations as well as the width of pavement in the subdivisions. At that time, the Police Chief, working with the engineers involved, determined with only 24 foot of pavement and a car approximately eleven (11) foot in length, they felt the 25 mph speed limit was the appropriate speed inside those subdivisions and these speed limits have been carried on since that determination was made.

Mayor Marshall said to address Ms. Lynch question, how was the 25 mph speed limit, specifically on Middleton Drive, determined.

City Administrator Flanigan said the engineers, who designed that particular subdivision, recommended the 25 mph speed limit. For Kings Crossing Phase 1, he believed that would be Richard Hovas, Westwood Professional Services.

Mayor Marshall said the developers and engineers for the particular developments recommended the speed limits. City Council has the authority to change the speed limits to whatever is reasonable and agreed upon by the Police Department. The Police Department would enforce the speed limits.

City Administrator said the last time the City was involved in determining a speed limit for a particular street was Dublin Road. Due to the narrowness of the road, staff recommended a traffic study be done to determine the appropriate speed limit, which is 30 mph. Mr. Flanigan said he would not want to make a drastic change on such a narrow street without an engineer's input.

Police Chief Brooks said the Police Department would always be concerned about safety. Many factors go into that evaluation and they change. It would be a case by case or street by street assessment. Chief Brooks addressed the public comment from Mr. Barber in regard to Springhill Estates Drive being a "speed trap", stating the reason that particular road needed to be 30 mph is that we have residents backing out of their driveways at zero (0) speed and/or slowing down to turn into their driveways. If that speed limit was changed from 30 to 40 mph, he would have a concern because there would be less reaction time at that higher speed. As a review, in the last six (6) months the Parker Police Department has issued eighteen (18) speeding tickets or six (6) tickets a month along that road. Chief Brooks said he would not classify that as a "speed trap". The ticket speeds ranged from 40 to 56 mph. 56 mph is unsafe on any residential street and the 40 mph speeding tickets could have had a safety concern associated with them. The Police Department has issued far more warnings than citations along Springhill Estates Drive.

Mayor Marshall asked staff to address Ms. Lynch's second question, regarding speed limit signs within the subdivisions rather than at the entrances and exits. City Administrator Flanigan said he would have to defer to the Police Chief, but he thought the traffic code determined where speed limit signs are posted. Chief Brooks agreed, stating if there was no sign the prima facie speed limit in Texas is 30 mph. If the speed limit is different, it must be posted.

Councilmember Meyer asked about the various speed limits along Lewis Lane and why the drastic change from 60 mph to 30 mph when the Southridge Subdivision was developed. She said there were no driveways along that section of the road. City Administrator Flanigan said staff posted the 30 mph signs and he would recommend an engineering study if City Council wanted to post anything higher than 40 mph, due to the depth of the ditches. Ms. Meyer said the speed limit from Lucas was 40 mph and it dropped to 30 entering Parker. She felt a reasonable speed limit would be 40 mph. Mayor Marshall noted in 2008, the current ordinance states Lewis Lane is 30 mph. Ms. Meyer requested Lewis Lane from the bridge north to Lucas Road be 40 mph.

City Attorney Shelby added the new ordinance did not change any of the established speed limits. The ordinance only added new subdivisions streets that have come into the city since the last ordinance.

Councilmember Meyer said in regard to Springhill Estates Road, she felt Mr. Barber was referring to a 40 mph speed limit along Allen Heights in Allen, Texas, a more densely populated City, versus 30 mph along Springhill Estates in Parker, Texas, which is less densely populated, not making sense. Mayor Marshall noted there were no houses with driveways along Allen Heights, but there are along Springhill Estates Road in Parker, Texas.

James R. Douglas, Jr., 5005 Hackberry Lane, commented Allen, Texas had sidewalks and no borrow "bar" ditches; Parker, Texas does not have sidewalks and does have bar ditches. There are driveways, children riding bicycles, and people

jogging along narrow Springhill Estates Road. Mr. Douglas strongly encouraged City Council to keep the speed limit on Springhill Estates Road at 30 mph.

City Attorney Shelby said he needed to make it clear the City can set the speed limits, not on what it wants, it needed to be based on engineering and traffic investigation and these speed limits were determined by engineering firms, who did such an investigation. If City Council wanted to change the speed limits, the City would need to initiate another traffic study.

Mayor Marshall said he has received numerous comments saying the opposite. Residents asked for lower residential street speed limits. Councilmember Raney agreed.

Councilmember Standridge said he understood and he would not suggest raising any of the 30 mph street speed limits, but the 25 mph speed limits could create problems for drivers. He also asked, regarding Mr. Barber's email, who set the stop signs along Springhill Estates Road at Pecan Orchard and Willow Ridge Drive. City Administrator Flanigan said staff set the stop signs, based on a City Council decision. It was a safety issue due to school buses and other issues. Councilmember Standridge said he understood the stop sign at Willow Ridge Drive, because it slowed traffic. The stop sign at Pecan Orchard was confusing, due to the fact that the intersection was offset. Councilmember Pettie agreed the offset stop signs along Springhill Estates Road were dangerous and confusing. City Administrator Flanigan said the stop signs needed to be another agenda. This item addressed speed limits only.

Councilmember Pettie noted some of the 25 mph speed limits were initiated by residents, coming to City Council and requesting lower speed limits.

Mayor Marshall suggested tabling this item. He also suggested staff do research on some of the questions presented tonight. Staff could return with recommendations.

MOTION: Councilmember Standridge moved to table Ordinance No. 758, amending and restating the provisions of Ordinance No. 621 the prima facie speed limits for additional information/research. Councilmember Pettie seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Pettie, Raney, and Standridge voting for the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ROUTINE ITEMS

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Marshall reviewed the following updates and reminders:

UPDATE(S):

- **UPDATE ON PARKER WOMEN'S CLUB (PWC) E-BLAST NOTIFICATIONS**

City Administrator Flanigan said he met with PWC and discussed the matter. An error was made. Mr. Flanigan said his original response was with regard to the City's website. City Council approved PWC email blasts by motion on June 26, 2007. City Staff has put some guidelines in place, requesting any notices be sent on Fridays and the information should be sent to City Staff at least 24-hours in advance. The issue has been resolved.

- **ACCEPTANCE OF CITY OF PARKER POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATION FOR THE RECORD (LETHA SIMMONS)**

As required by Resolution No. 2016-520, Mayor Marshall accepted Letha Simmons' \$60 donation to the City of Parker Police Department for the record. The Mayor, City Council, and staff thanked Ms. Simmons for her generous donation.

REMINDER(S):

- AN EMAIL REQUESTING VACATION SCHEDULES WILL BE SENT SOON. HAVE YOUR SCHEDULE READY!
- SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018, 10AM-2PM, DRUG TAKE BACK
Chief Brooks said the City would try the Drug Take Back without hazardous waste disposal and see how it goes.
- SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018 – GENERAL & SPECIAL ELECTION (EV AND ED INFO)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 22	Apr 23 Early Voting 8am to 5pm	Apr 24 Early Voting 8am to 5pm	Apr 25 Early Voting 8am to 5pm	Apr 26 Early Voting 8am to 7pm	Apr. 27 Early Voting 8am to 5pm	Apr. 28 Early Voting 8am to 5pm
Apr 29	Apr 30 Early Voting 7am to 7pm	May 1 Early Voting 7am to 7pm	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5 Election Day 7am to 7pm

- PROJECTED 2018 TAX RATE PLANNING CALENDAR

Mayor Marshall asked candidates to refrain from campaigning and/or participating in any political activities at City Hall or Municipal Buildings and grounds.

Mayor Marshall asked if there were any items to be added to the future agenda and noted Mayor Pro Tem Levine requested an item regarding the Home Rule Charter Commission (HRCC) be added to the next agenda, as some fifty percent (50%) of that commission are running for office. The item might discuss suspending or delaying HRCC activity. The Mayor said Mayor Pro Tem also wanted to ask City Attorney Shelby if he, as HRCC chair, had the authority to cancel the HRCC meeting set for March 7, 2018. Mr. Shelby said he believed Resolution No. 2017-558 gave the Mayor Pro Tem, as HRCC Chair, the authority to cancel or postpone meetings.


The Mayor said the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting would be Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

9. ADJOURN

Mayor Marshall adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.



APPROVED:


Mayor Z. Marshall

ATTESTED:


Patti Scott Grey, City Secretary

Approved on the 20th day
of March, 2018.

BIRKHOFF, HENDRICKS & CARTER, L.L.P.
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

11910 Greenville Ave., Suite 600

Dallas, Texas 75243

Fax (214) 461-8390

Phone (214) 361-7900

JOHN W. BIRKHOFF, P.E.
GARY C. HENDRICKS, P.E.
JOE R. CARTER, P.E.
MATT HICKEY, P.E.
ANDREW MATA, JR., P.E.
JOSEPH T. GRAJEWSKI, III, P.E.
DEREK B. CHANEY, P.E.
CRAIG M. KERKHOFF, P.E.

February 14, 2018

Mr. Jeff Flanigan
City of Parker
5700 E. Parker Rd.
Parker, Texas 75002

Re: Parker Ranch Phase II

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

We completed our third site visit to the Parker Ranch Phase II Development on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 to determine if the work is complete. Based on our observation, this development is complete.

We are available at your convenience to discuss any questions you may have of our finding.

Sincerely,



John W. Birkhoff, P.E.

BIRKHOFF, HENDRICKS & CARTER, L.L.P.
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

11910 Greenville Ave., Suite 600

Dallas, Texas 75243

Fax (214) 461-8390

Phone (214) 361-7900

JOHN W. BIRKHOFF, P.E.
GARY C. HENDRICKS, P.E.
JOE R. CARTER, P.E.
MATT HICKEY, P.E.
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February 14, 2018

Mr. Jeff Flanigan
City of Parker
5700 E. Parker Rd.
Parker, Texas 75002

Re: Parker Ranch Phase III

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

We completed our third site visit to the Parker Ranch Phase II Development on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 to determine if the work is complete. Based on our observation the developer is completing repair work of drainage channels and is in process of placing erosion control matts and establishing vegetation in those selected areas. We believe when this work is complete in the next few days that all work will be completed.

We recommend that the development be accepted.

We are available at your convenience to discuss any questions you may have of our finding.

Sincerely,



John W. Birkhoff, P.E.

From: [John Barber](#)
To: [Patti Grey](#)
Cc: [Z Marshall](#)
Subject: Speed limits and stop signs on Springhill Estates Rd.
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 3:24:04 PM

Ms. Grey:

I wish to be recorded as in opposition to the continuation of the speed limit and stop signs on Springhill Estates Rd.

The speed limit is 40 MPH in Allen on Allen Heights Rd. which is essentially a continuation of Springhill Estates Rd. which is posted at 30 MPH. There seems to be no justification for a 30 MPH speed limit in Parker other than to serve as a speed trap for the collection of revenue. I have seen more children in Allen than in Parker along these streets, so a child safety argument is specious. Ticketed offenders could certainly argue the speed limit difference justification issue in court and perhaps they have.

The 4 way stop on Springhill Estates Rd. at Pecan Orchard is evidently intended to impede the flow of traffic. They create pollution, waste gasoline and increase the probability of an accident. The 4 way stop at Pecan Orchard is offset by about 50 yards. I have had many slow speed near accidents while turning left on to Pecan Orchard in front of people who are supposed to stay stopped, but do not. Most people expect that the normal side street stop sign rules apply; not an offset 4 way stop. Bluntly, having this offset 4 way stop is stupid.

The stop sign on Springhill Estates Rd further south is just a traffic flow impediment, a pollution generator and a gasoline waster perhaps intended as a trap for the generation of revenue for the city. It gives us a bad reputation.

I request that you take action to remove the stop signs on Springhill Estates Rd. and apply normal side street stop sign rules and increase the speed limit from 30 MPH to 40 MPH as in Allen.

Thank you,

John Barber
4905 Hackberry Lane
Parker, TX 75002