

MINUTES
City Council – Regular Meeting
MAY 18, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Wyman Williams
Mayor Pro Tempore Anthony Henry
Council Members: Beckey Thompson, Stephanie Muller & Teddy Reel
City Manager Howdy Lisenbee
City Attorney Charles Anderson
Director of Administrative Services Molly Jacobsen
Finance Director Jamie Campbell
Director of Public Safety Chris Bassham

ABSENT:

1. **Call to order:**
Mayor Wyman Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Invocation:**
Mayor Wyman Williams asked the audience for a moment of silence.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
Council Member Beckey Thompson lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
 - Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes- April 14, 2021
 - Commerce Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes- April 28, 2021
 - b. **Consider and Take Action on:**
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located on 1204 Craddock Street (Property ID #79514) with Michael White; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located on 1211 Craddock Street (Property ID #79506) with Michael White; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located on 1213 Craddock Street (Property ID #79506) with Michael White; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located at 1201 Booker Street (Property ID #70446) with Michael White; and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located on 1203 Booker Street (Property ID #79492) with Michael White; and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located on 1210 Booker Street (Property ID #79502) with Michael White; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located on 1212 Booker Street (Property ID #79502) with Michael White; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Approving a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Agreement for the Property Located on 702 N. Neal Street (Property ID #52892) with Cory Paris; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary Documentation.
 - A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a City-owned Box Hangar Lease Agreement at the Commerce Municipal Airport between the City of Commerce and

1 Timothy E. Sullivan; and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary
2 Documentation.

3 • A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Shade T-Hangar Lease Agreement at
4 the Commerce Municipal Airport between the City of Commerce and Brandon
5 Luther Brooker; and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Necessary
6 Documentation.
7

8 Council Member Stephanie Muller requested that the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone
9 agreements be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.
10

11 Council Member Stephanie Muller moved to approve the consent agenda, except for the
12 Neighborhood Empowerment Zone agreements in part "b." Council Member Beckey Thompson
13 seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.
14

15 City Manager Howdy Lisenbee reminded the Council that they had previously established a
16 Neighborhood Empowerment Zone on the eastern portion of town. It provides opportunity for
17 developers looking to invest in our community and provides incentives for them to develop this
18 area. The city does an agreement with the developer for the property, and that agreement allows
19 for property tax abatements upon project completion and waives permit fees related to the
20 development. On the consent agenda tonight is a developer who has 8 properties within the
21 Neighborhood Empowerment Zone that he plans to develop. The City Attorney pointed out there
22 are blanks within the agreement where the Council can require certain things related to the
23 development. For example, they can require concrete driveways, as opposed to gravel driveways.
24 They can also require alternative building materials and require exterior masonry to a specified
25 percentage for the developments. Following the 2019 legislative session, cities can no longer
26 require masonry criteria under state law, but the City can require it as a part of this agreement to
27 make the developer eligible for the rebates and incentives. Council Member Beckey Thompson
28 said she would prefer to see these requirements included in the agreements to encourage quality
29 development within the City. Community Development Specialist Jon Harper noted that this
30 developer has already submitted building plans for these structures.
31

32 Council Member Beckey Thompson moved to approve the neighborhood empowerment zone
33 agreements with the requirement that 80/20 masonry be required on the façade of the exterior and
34 that a concrete driveway be required for each project. The motion was seconded by Council
35 Member Anthony Henry and the vote carried unanimously.
36

- 37 5. **Presentation to City Council Members by members of the Public. (To be conducted as close**
38 **to 6:05 p.m. as possible with a three-minute limit per person. Public Comments will cease at**
39 **6:20 p.m. This period is reserved for citizens to discuss items not on the listed agenda. The**
40 **response to Public Comments will be limited to 1) A statement of fact or policy; 2) Direction**
41 **to take up the issue with a city staff member; 3) An offer to place the item on a future**
42 **Council Agenda.**
43

44 No one came forward.
45

- 46 6. **Consideration of Appointment by the Commerce City Council of Mayor Pro Tempore for**
47 **May 2021 - May 2022.**

48 Council Member Stephanie Muller nominated Council Member Anthony Henry as Mayor Pro
49 Tempore. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beckey Thompson and the vote carried
50 unanimously. There were no other nominations.
51

52 Council Member Stephanie Muller made a motion by acclimation to elect Anthony Henry as
53 Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Wyman Williams seconded the motion and the vote carried
54 unanimously.
55

1
2 **7. Consideration of Appointment by the Commerce City Council of an Ex Officio to the**
3 **Commerce Economic Development Corporation.**
4

5 Council Member Stephanie Muller nominated Beckey Thompson as Ex Officio of the Commerce
6 Economic Development Corporation Board. The motion was seconded by Mayor Wyman
7 Williams and the vote carried unanimously. There were no other nominations.
8

9 Council Member Stephanie Muller made a motion by acclimation to elect Beckey Thompson as
10 Ex Officio to the Commerce Economic Development Corporation. Mayor Pro Tempore Anthony
11 Henry seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.
12

13 **8. Consideration of Appointment by the Commerce City Council of an Ex Officio Member to**
14 **the Beautification Commission.**
15

16 Council Member Beckey Thompson nominated Stephanie Muller as Ex Officio of the
17 Beautification Commission. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Henry and
18 the vote carried unanimously. There were no other nominations.
19

20 Mayor Wyman Williams made a motion by acclimation to elect Stephanie Muller as Ex Officio
21 Member to the Beautification Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member
22 Beckey Thompson and the vote carried unanimously.
23

24 **9. Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Allocation Presentations**
25

26 Finance Director Jamie Campbell informed the Council that they had originally anticipated
27 collecting \$15,000 in revenue related to hotel occupancy tax (HOT), but that in spite of COVID-
28 19, the City collected about \$20,000 in revenue for Fiscal Year 2021. The plan is to budget for
29 \$20,000 in HOT collections for Fiscal Year 2022. She reminded the Council that as they listened
30 to presentations this evening, to keep in mind they would have approximately \$20,000 to
31 distribute amongst applicants and the official allocation would happen at next month's meeting or
32 any meeting prior to the adoption of the budget. Finance Director Campbell reminded Council
33 that in order to qualify for these funds, applicants had to meet two criteria. They had to "put heads
34 in beds" and spend funds according to one of several criteria, which include:
35

- 36 • Convention and Visitor Information Centers
- 37 • Registration of Convention Delegates
- 38 • Advertising and promotional programs to attract tourists and convention delegates
- 39 • Promotion of the Arts
- 40 • Historical restoration and preservation projects or activities
- 41 • Sporting Event expenses which substantially increase economic activity at hotels in
- 42 counties under 1 million people
- 43 • Funding transportation systems for tourism
- 44 • Signage directing tourists to sights and attractions that are visited frequently by hotel
- 45 guests in the municipality
46

47 City Manager Lisenbee presented a letter from the Chamber of Commerce as President Paul Voss
48 was unable to attend the meeting this evening. Mr. Voss noted that the City is assisting with the
49 Chamber Fireworks display this year and the Chamber is very grateful. He noted that the
50 Chamber meets five of the criteria for spending their allocated HOT funds.
51

52 City Manager Lisenbee noted that Tim McMurray had intended to present to the Council virtually
53 on behalf of the Texas A&M University Commerce Athletic Department, but due to a delayed
54 flight, he too had to send an e-mail in which he summarized the athletic events hosted by the
55 University throughout the year which bring visitors to the Magnuson Hotel in Commerce.

1
2 **10. Discussion and Possible Action on Establishing the Incorporation of the City's Extra-**
3 **Territorial Jurisdiction into the Proposed Boundaries of an Emergency Service District**
4 **(ESD) within Hunt County.**
5

6 City Manager Howdy Lisenbee discussed with the Council that this ongoing effort to form an
7 Emergency Services District, which would encompass a majority of Hunt County, would require
8 an Election. He noted that properties within this service district would be subject to an additional
9 property tax, not to exceed \$0.10 cents, which would be utilized to finance the district. Manager
10 Lisenbee stated that he believed the intent of the district would be to fund some of the volunteer
11 fire departments or more rural departments within Hunt County which are significantly currently
12 underfunded but continue to grow in population. The question being proposed is whether the
13 City's extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ), which is about 1 mile outside the City limits, should be
14 included in this emergency service district (ESD). If the city were to opt in, it would take funding
15 away from some of the more rural departments. Therefore, the request is that the City opt out of
16 the district. Staff recommends both the City and our ETJ opt out of the proposed Emergency
17 Service District.
18

19 Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Henry moved to opt both the City and its ETJ out of the proposed ESD.
20 The motion was seconded by Council Member Stephanie Muller and the vote carried
21 unanimously.
22

23 **11. Discussion and Possible Action on the Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding**
24 **(MOU) between the City of Commerce and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.**
25

26 City Manager Howdy Lisenbee discussed that for a number of years, the City has operated both
27 youth sport facilities and administered the leagues to allow kids to play various sports. He said
28 that in reviewing these numbers, registration has declined over the past five years and the City has
29 reached a point where we are actually losing money by administering these programs and has to be
30 subsidized by the City's general fund. Manager Lisenbee stated that the City became connected
31 with the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Texas, who has a great presence within the school district
32 already and has a good deal of corporate oversight. He noted that a challenge with outsourcing the
33 administration of the sports leagues to something like a parent led organization, is that you run the
34 risk of motivated parents forming a structured program and then their kids age out of the program
35 and another group of parents comes along and can be less effective than the prior group. This can
36 lead to the overall quality of the program deteriorating over time because there is no succession
37 plan to assist in the transition of the administration of the programs. City Manager Lisenbee stated
38 that he felt partnering with an organization like the Boys & Girls Club to administer the leagues
39 could mitigate that problem as they would maintain a high level of service when managing these
40 programs. Manager Lisenbee said that the City would focus their money, resources and time on
41 improving and maintaining the facilities for these leagues while the Boys & Girls Club could
42 focus on the administration of the leagues. He stated that the Boys & Girls Club has corporate
43 sponsorships and access to national funding organizations and thus have options that we as a City
44 do not have access to. The Boys & Girls Club also has an agreement with Texas A&M University
45 Commerce to provide for staff assistance from students at the University, which is funded by the
46 University. The City has offered to put up to \$10,000 on the table for the first year and allow the
47 Boys & Girls Club to operate administration of the leagues. If the Boys & Girls Club spends more
48 than they collect in revenue in the first year, the City will spend up to \$10,000 in repaying them
49 for any financial loss in administering these programs in the first year as they establish the
50 program. In conversations with the City attorney, there are still details to be worked out related to
51 liability and insurance, which will require a more formal contractual agreement between the two
52 parties. Tonight, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) is being brought before council to
53 commit to this plan and would be followed up with a more formal contract in the coming weeks.
54

55 Jenny Krueger, from the Boys & Girls Club addressed the Council and noted that both
56 organizations have similar values and goals and her feeling that alignment of these principles

1 provides a great foundation for a project like this. She feels the Boys & Girls Club can leverage
2 national resources and local resources and partnerships to take these programs in a direction that
3 both the City and the Boys & Girls Club can benefit from. She further noted that they have plans
4 to develop workforce at the high school level that benefits both students and this program in the
5 future.

6
7 Council Member Beckey Thompson inquired if Jenny had ever been a part of a partnership like
8 this in the past. Jenny noted that the Boys & Girls Club has been a part of planning and
9 implementing recreational programs in the past in other cities. Council Member Beckey
10 Thompson inquired if there was a problem, like angry parents whose children participate in
11 leagues, would that be an issue handled by the City or the Boys & Girls Club? Jenny noted that
12 both the City and the Boys & Girls Club would collaborate to address these issues, but it would
13 likely be handled on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of the problem. City Manager
14 Lisenbee said that whoever is running the league would probably handle issues related to league
15 administration, which in this case would be the Boys & Girls Club. However, he said if the
16 problem were related to facilities, the City would take the lead on addressing that problem as
17 facilities will continue to be managed by the City. But in either case, he noted it would be a
18 collaborative effort. Council Member Teddy Reel inquired if this MOU were to be passed this
19 evening, what would be the first program they would tackle? Jenny stated that the intent would be
20 to attempt some summer camps initially to get people excited about the program and allow the
21 community to gain confidence in the idea of this new partnership between the City and the Boys &
22 Girls Club before rolling out an actual league or recreational sport program.

23
24 Council Member Stephanie Muller inquired how long the MOU would be in place. City Manager
25 Lisenbee mentioned that it was initially for three or four years but could go for any amount of time
26 they wanted it to. Jenny stated it takes two to three years to establish a good program and
27 encouraged the Council to allow that time for the program to become established.

28
29 Mayor Wyman Williams recused himself from this vote as he is the President of the local Boys &
30 Girls Club and he serves on the Corporate board that oversees the entire organization.

31
32 Council Member Beckey Thompson moved to table this item until they had time to further review
33 the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem
34 Anthony Henry and the vote carried unanimously.

35
36 **12. Discussion and Possible Action on Award of a Professional Services Agreement for**
37 **Engineering Services related to the 2021-2022 Street & Drainage Improvements Project.**

38
39 City Manager Howdy Lisenbee stated that the City has approximately \$1.5 million set aside for
40 street projects and is looking to add another approximately \$1 million within the next year for a
41 total of about \$2.5 million for street projects projected for the City of Commerce in the next
42 couple of years. In Texas, if you do a public works project valued over a certain dollar amount, an
43 Engineer must be on board for the project. The City released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
44 for engineering services and received three responsive bids from Freese & Nichols, Hayter
45 Engineering and KSA. The three firms were evaluated, and staff recommends award of an
46 agreement to Freese & Nichols. Phase One of that agreement is being brought before the Council,
47 which is a professional services agreement, and the intent of the scope is to not reinvent the wheel.
48 There has been a number of street surveys over the years in Commerce, and the City desires to
49 have the firm review these existing plans and create a short list of projects that rank and prioritize
50 the streets in what order is best to tackle the street repairs. He stated that while this agreement is
51 for \$50,000, the task is a priority for both the community and the Council.

52
53 Alan from Freese & Nichols was on hand for the meeting and addressed the Council stating that
54 his firm was happy to be able to partner with Commerce and improve streets in the community.
55

Council Member Stephanie Muller moved to award a Professional Services Agreement with Freeze & Nichols. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beckey Thompson and the vote carried unanimously.

13. ***First Reading- Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance amending Chapter 38, Article IV, Titled 'Noise.'***

Director of Public Safety Chris Bassham discussed that the current "Noise" Ordinance is very vague and short. The new ordinance being proposed amends Chapter 38 by establishing a noise level. Officers will have equipment in their patrol car, which is essentially a fancy microphone, to measure the level of noise and establish reasonable parameters for violations related to noise levels. To provide a baseline, Chief Bassham stated that if the police department pulled up outside your house and left the sirens on, that would register about 70 dBA inside your home. He noted that the daytime and nighttime parameters differed. At nighttime, the maximum level is 49 dBA and daytime is 56 dBA.

Council Member Anthony Henry inquired as to what would happen on nights where the City hosted an event like the Bois d'Arc Bash. Chief Bassham pointed out that there is a clause within the Ordinance that allows the City Manager to override the Ordinance for special events on a case-by-case basis.

Council Member Anthony Henry moved to approve this Ordinance on the first reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stephanie Muller and the vote carried unanimously.

14. ***First Reading- Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance implementing a 'Resident-Only Parking' permitted parking model for citizens of Commerce living on or nearby the Texas A&M University-Commerce campus.***

Director of Public Safety Chris Bassham summarized that this Ordinance addresses the problem of many narrow streets near campus which students park on creating a traffic hazard and making it difficult for residents of homes to access their own driveways. He stated that an example would be Aldridge Street, which is a wide street. However, on a weekend where someone is hosting a party and cars line up on both sides of Aldridge Street, the fire department might get a call for someone having a heart attack and getting an emergency vehicle down that street in situations like this becomes difficult, even on wider streets, and it is nearly impossible on the very narrow streets. The Ordinance lists streets to which this Ordinance would be applicable but would allow for other streets to be added in the future. Residents on the streets in the Ordinance would come to the Police Department and register their vehicle. They would receive a 2 x 2 sticker that says "parking permit." If the sticker is on the car and someone is parked on these streets, they will not be penalized for parking there. When residents register, they will also receive permits to hang from a rear-view mirror to use for guests parking near their homes during holidays or special events. If they need more than a couple of these temporary permits, they can call dispatch for more and the event will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Council Member Beckey Thompson inquired as to how we would get the word out to homeowners. Chief Bassham stated that staff would try to get mail outs to homeowners on these streets. He also said he counted on word of mouth to spread the word and said they planned to put up the "Resident Only" Parking signs and then wait a few weeks before ticketing those who violate the parking Ordinance.

Council Member Stephanie Muller inquired as to how dispatch would differentiate between someone having a group of people over to their house for a club meeting one night as opposed to a rental house on the same street having a party and inviting 100 people. Chief Bassham stated that this would be handled on a case-by-case basis, and the Police Department would have the right to deny issuing temporary parking permits or to decline to issue too many of them for an event like a large party.

1
2 Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Henry moved to approve this Ordinance and the "Resident Only"
3 parking model on the first reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stephanie
4 Muller and the vote carried unanimously.
5

6 **15. Second Reading- Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance adopting the 5th Edition of**
7 **the Texas State Records Retention Schedule.**
8

9 Director of Administrative Services Molly Jacobsen reminded the Council that this was the second
10 reading of this Ordinance. Texas Local Government Code, as well as City Ordinance requires that
11 the City establish and maintain a records retention committee, policy and process. Since records
12 created and maintained by the City are considered public property, and property of the taxpayers,
13 they have to be disposed of by a schedule which provides for a transparent process in which these
14 records are destroyed. Director Jacobsen noted that some cities establish their own record
15 retention schedules while other cities adopt a schedule from the Texas State Library and Archives
16 Commission (TSLAC). The City has historically adopted schedules from TSLAC who updated
17 their local government record schedule in 2020, which has not yet been formally adopted by the
18 City. Staff recommends council adoption of this record retention schedule.
19

20 Council Member Stephanie Muller moved to adopt this Ordinance on the second reading. The
21 motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Anthony Henry and the vote carried unanimously.
22

23 **16. Second Reading- Discussion and Possible Action on the Adoption of an Ordinance**
24 **Regulating Scooter and Bicycle Sharing Services Within the City of Commerce.**
25

26 City Manager Howdy Lisenbee discussed that last month the Council heard this Ordinance which
27 regulates the use of ride sharing bicycles and scooters. This is a concept where entrepreneurs buy
28 a fleet of bicycles or scooters and citizens within a community can rent the scooters or bicycles
29 and use them to commute around town, and then leave the bicycle or scooter wherever they would
30 like. An attached GPS on the bicycle or scooter will calculate the cost the user owes based on the
31 number of miles put on the bicycle or scooter. The City currently does not have any guidance or
32 an Ordinance which regulates this service should a business model like this come to Commerce.
33

34 Council Member Beckey Thompson moved to approve the Ordinance on the second reading. The
35 motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Henry and the vote carried unanimously.
36

37 **17. Second Reading- Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance of the City Council of the**
38 **City of Commerce, Texas Amending Chapter 2, 'Administration' and adding Article VI,**
39 **'Ethics'; and adopting General Standards of Ethics; Conflicts of Interest and Related**
40 **Disclosures; Gifts and Honorariums; Adopting Related Definitions and Associated**
41 **Interpretations of such terms; Ethics Training; and Adoption of Policy for Elected and**
42 **Appointed Officials for the City of Commerce.**
43

44 Director of Administrative Services Molly Jacobsen reminded the Council this was the second
45 reading of an Ordinance which would codify into the City's Code of Ordinances an ethics policy
46 for elected city officials and those individuals who serve on City Boards and Commissions. After
47 feedback from Council last month following the first reading, Council indicated that they would
48 like for ethics issues, as they pertain to city employees, to be handled by the City Manager. Thus,
49 in between the last meeting and the first reading of this Ordinance, city staff went through the
50 policy and removed all language which would encompass city employees so that the policy
51 applies only to the expectations for elected and appointed officials.
52

53 Council Member Beckey Thompson approved this Ordinance on the second reading. Mayor Pro
54 Tempore Anthony Henry seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.
55

1 **18. Second Reading- Consideration and Possible Action on an Ordinance amending Chapter 90,**
2 **'Traffic and Vehicles,' Subsections 90-101 (a)(2) and (a)(3) of the Code of Ordinances of the**
3 **City of Commerce to designate a 'No Parking Zone' on a Portion of the east and west side of**
4 **Bois d'Arc Street, between Stonewall and Culver Street, Providing a Penalty and Providing**
5 **for an Effective Date.**
6

7 Director of Public Safety Chris Bassham reminded the Council that this was a second reading of
8 this Ordinance which applies to a portion of Bois d'Arc Street between Stonewall and Culver,
9 which is south of the Alumni Center on the Texas A&M University-Commerce campus.
10 Currently, one block of the street has "No Parking" on either side of the street, and then the next
11 block has "No Parking" on just the east side of the Street. The intent is to make the entire segment
12 of this street "No Parking" so as to avoid making sections of the street acceptable for Parking and
13 simply relocating the parking problem of crowded streets to a different portion of the street. This
14 Ordinance will create a uniform "No Parking" approach to this street. University parking lots 14
15 and 19 are nearby and students often choose not to pay for parking permits, and the lots are largely
16 vacant as students choose to park instead for free on the street. This has caused homeowners to
17 become frustrated as they have trouble traversing the street and getting to their own driveways.
18

19 Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Henry moved to approve this Ordinance on the second reading. The
20 motion was seconded by Council Member Stephanie Muller and the vote carried unanimously.
21

22 **19. City Manager's Report; discussion of same.**

- 23 • **Public input feedback**
- 24 • **Finance Update-**
 - 25 • **Property Tax, April 2021-** Finance Director Jamie Campbell stated that as
26 of the end of April, the City has received almost \$2.3 million in property tax
27 revenue, which is approximately 94% of our tax levy. Last year at this time,
28 the City had collected about 95% of our tax levy, so the City is pretty close
29 to where we were at this time last year. Director Campbell reminded Council
30 that the City budgeted 97% of its tax levy for property tax collections in Fiscal
31 Year 2021.
 - 32 • **Sales Tax-** The City noticed a large spike in collections for the month of May,
33 which was unexpected. Director Campbell noted that for May, this reflects
34 revenue from purchases in March, which is when the stimulus payments were
35 released, and a lot of people received their tax returns. The assumption is that
36 more people were spending that money here in Commerce. A detailed
37 analysis from April which showed the category of "Retail Trade" to be
38 increasing as compared to years prior. Further breakdown of that retail trade
39 by category indicates department stores and hardware stores have had higher
40 than normal collections and contribute to a majority of that "retail trade"
41 category in sales tax collections. In a detailed analysis for the month of May,
42 there was again a spike in the category of "Retail Trade" collections but there
43 was also more tax revenue collected related to utilities.
- 44 • **Calendar of upcoming events.**
 - 45 • Director of Administrative Services Molly Jacobsen invited the Council and
46 Public to attend an event on the afternoon of Friday, May 21st at the Northeast
47 Texas Children's Museum which would recognize Dixie Turman and Bob
48 Stachowiak for their continued support of the Northeast Texas Children's
49 Museum as they recently donated the State Farm fire truck exhibit to the
50 Museum.
 - 51 • The Commerce Animal Shelter, in partnership with MUGS coffee shop will
52 be hosting "Mugs for Mutts" on Saturday, June 3rd from 8am to 3pm.
 - 53 • Commerce Lil' Angels is hosting a BBQ dinner on the square with live music
54 the evening of Friday, June 11th with proceeds benefitting Commerce Lil'
55 Angels.

- The City and the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Fireworks Show on Saturday, July 3rd. In addition, the Commerce Police and Fire Departments will face off in a softball tournament.
- The City will continue mosquito spraying throughout the month of May and the summer. The schedule can be found on the City's website at commercetx.org
- Finally, the City has vacancies on the Building Standards Commission, the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, the Board of Adjustment, the Beautification Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission. Applications can be found on the City's website at commercetx.org under the Department of the City Secretary and Boards & Commissions or applications can be picked up from City Hall. The bi-annual appointments to various City boards and commissions will take place at the regular June City Council meeting.
- **Personnel.**
 - The City recently hired intern Rickey Brown as a permanent staff member. He will continue serving as the Parks & Recreation Coordinator for the City but will move from being a University Intern to being a full time City employee.
- **Projects update.**
- **Intergovernmental Events and Issues**

20. Recess into Executive Session:

• §551.074: To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee (City Manager).

• §551.074: To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee (Mayor Pro Tempore).

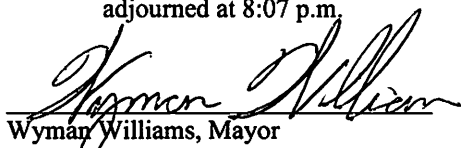
Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Henry moved to recess into executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beckey Thompson and the vote carried unanimously. The City Council recessed into executive session at 7:32 p.m.

21. Reconvene into Open session: In accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, the City Council will reconvene into Regular Session to consider any action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session.

There was no action by the Council out of Executive Session.

22. Adjourn.

Council Member Stephanie Muller made the motion to adjourn. Council Member Beckey Thompson seconded the motion, resulting in a unanimous vote to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


Wymarr Williams, Mayor


Molly Jacobsen, City Secretary

06/15/2021
Date

05.18.2021.MINS