

**MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2009
HEATH CITY COUNCIL
200 LAURENCE DRIVE - HEATH, TEXAS
STATED MEETING – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ATTENDING: JOHN RATCLIFFE, MAYOR
JULIE ZUREK, MAYOR PRO TEM
ROBERT HILLE
RICHARD KRAUSE
LORNE LIECHTY
KAREN LEWIS
STEVE MCKIMMEY

Mayor Ratcliffe called the stated meeting to order and delivered the invocation at 7:34 p.m. The Mayor stated that, pursuant to a request from a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) representative, the agenda item pertaining to the redesign of the intersection of FM 740, FM 549 and FM 550 would be not be taken up at the current meeting. Ratcliffe explained that the TxDOT representative notified the City earlier in the day that they were not yet ready to present and requested that the item be rescheduled for November 17.

Hille provided information regarding National Incident Management System training. Staff will provide information regarding online options for training.

Approval of the Minutes of October 20, 2009.

MOTION: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2009.

MOTION MADE: LEWIS
SECONDED: LIECHTY
APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

Discussion and Action Regarding Resolution 091103A Directing Staff to Pursue Funding Available through the Federal Transportation Bill Apportioned for the Administration of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs to Increase Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety and to Further the City's Goals of Expanding Pathways throughout the City of Heath.

Director of Public Works Pedram Farahnak and Planning Technician Lisa Palomba presented and answered questions regarding the City of Heath Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan which was submitted to and approved by TxDOT in October.

MOTION: APPROVE RESOLUTION 091103A DIRECTING STAFF TO PURSUE FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION BILL APPORTIONED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAMS TO INCREASE BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY AND TO FURTHER THE CITY'S GOALS OF EXPANDING PATHWAYS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF HEATH.

MOTION MADE: ZUREK
SECONDED: LIECHTY
APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

Discussion and Action Regarding Resolution 091103B Directing Staff to Pursue all Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and being allocated by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to be used to Assist in Reaching the City's Goals of Energy Efficiency and to Continue the City's Commitment toward Energy Efficiency for the Citizens of the City of Heath and all of Texas.

There was discussion regarding grant funding options and reporting requirements. Staff recommended approval.

MOTION: APPROVE RESOLUTION 091103B DIRECTING STAFF TO PURSUE ALL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG) FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009 AND BEING ALLOCATED BY THE STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION OFFICE (SECO) TO BE USED TO ASSIST IN REACHING THE CITY'S GOALS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND TO CONTINUE THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TOWARD ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF HEATH AND ALL OF TEXAS.

MOTION MADE: McKIMMEY
SECONDED: LEWIS
APPROVED: UNANIMOUS

Discussion and Action Regarding Regulations pertaining to Motorized Vehicles on Public Trails.


The Mayor explained that the item was on the agenda per his request and provided background regarding citizen concerns received in response to the installation of signage publicizing the prohibition of motorized vehicles on public trails. Steve Clark, 1704 Bison Meadows Lane, who stated he was speaking on behalf of Buffalo Creek Country Club Estates parents who use golf carts to take children to school, conjectured that golf carts may not be covered by the City's regulations. Clark opined that the use of golf carts helped to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution and were a safe and pleasant way to transport children to school. Clark suggested that parents who use golf carts might be deputized by the Department of Public Safety to watch out for children travelling to and from school as part of a community alliance. Staff explained that the regulations adopted in 2002 prohibiting motorized vehicles, specifically including golf carts, were part of Chapter 70, Traffic Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances and that signage was recently installed in response to citizen concerns for the safety of children walking or riding bicycles on the trails. Monte Allred, 2424 Kathryn Drive, expressed support for the use of golf carts on trails. Mitchell Smartt, 1022 Timberline Drive and Vice-Chairman of the Park Board spoke in opposition to changing existing regulations. Smartt offered that the trails were designed for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, that sidewalk widths were insufficient for golf cart traffic, that golf carts were not equipped with seat belts or other safety features and that golf cart traffic adversely affected pedestrian and bicycle safety. Smartt requested that the traffic regulations prohibiting motorized vehicles on public trails be left in force. There was discussion regarding the implications on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant applications of allowing golf carts on public trails. The Mayor cited a SRTS Missouri city as an example of a city allowing golf carts on trails. Council Members voiced general support of efforts to lessen traffic and air pollution. They also expressed concerns regarding safety, liability and possible implications on SRTS grant opportunities. There was discussion regarding suggestions including limited times for golf cart traffic and a routine to park carts in the Buffalo Creek Country Club Estates Tennis Club parking lot and then escort children the rest of the way to school by foot. Liechty suggested that the matter be taken to the Park Board prior to further Council consideration. The consensus of the Council was that current regulations remain in force. Director of Public Safety Garrett expressed appreciation for Clark's efforts to promote safety through a community alliance and encouraged all present to participate in an upcoming Citizens Academy. No action was taken by the Council.

Discussion and Action Regarding Options for Future Improvements to the Intersection of FM 740, FM 549 and FM 550.

The item was rescheduled to November 17. No action was taken by the Council.

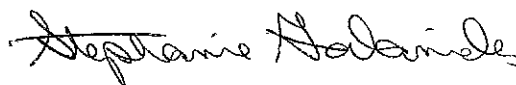
The Mayor welcomed Boy Scout Willie Medina who is working on the Citizenship in the Community badge. Ratcliffe adjourned the stated meeting at 8:49 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOHN RATCLIFFE
MAYOR



ATTEST:


STEPHANIE GALANIDES
CITY SECRETARY