CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE

City Hall
300 W. Main Street
Grand Prairie, Texas

MINUTES

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 **4:30 PM** **City Hall - Council Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT
Mayor Ron Jensen
Mayor Pro Tem Junior Ezeonu
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Kurt G. Johnson
Council Member District 1 Jorja Clemson
Council Member District 2 Jacquin Headen
Council Member District 3 Mike Del Bosque
Council Member District 4 John Lopez
Council Member District 5 Tony Shotwell
Council Member At Large Place 7 Bessye Adams

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor's Teen Council Introduction and Presentation of Fall Service Project(s)

   Vanna Ngo, Legislative Affairs Officer, presented alongside juniors and seniors from several Grand Prairie ISD schools highlighting student-led service projects that benefit the community and shared their initiatives: Grand Prairie Collegiate Institute presented recycling initiatives and a community beautification project. Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy shared a project focused on addressing community food insecurity during the holidays. Young Women's Leadership Academy presented a neighborhood trash cleanup project aimed at environmental improvement. Grand Prairie High School discussed its partnership with the Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization, creating and delivering food packages. Dubiski Career High School presented a canned food drive conducted in collaboration with the Media Pathway, Student Council, Arts classes, and school clubs, working with social workers to support over 20 families at the school. South Grand Prairie High School shared details about its Santa's Helpers Toy Drive, chosen to ensure gifts supported Grand Prairie residents. Ms. Ngo concluded by explaining the work of the Mayor's Teen Council and provided an overview of upcoming events.

   PRESENTED

2. Lone Star Consulting Community Project Funding and Grants Update

   Ms. Ngo provided an update on the efforts of Lone Star Consulting, which researches grant opportunities aligned with Council priorities and critical City projects. She also outlined additional support provided by the firm, including grant implementation assistance and

coordination of Hill Day at the National League of Cities (NLC). Ms. Ngo reviewed the status of grant activity, noting that several grants were requested, one grant was awarded, and two grants were defunded. A total of eleven grants are currently in progress, representing a potential funding amount of approximately $30 million. She also discussed Community Project Funds (CPF), reporting that five projects were accepted in 2024 and three in 2025, with $7.7 million pending. Additionally, seven projects are proposed for 2026, totaling $23 million in potential funding. In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu requesting clarification on the term "accepted," Ms. Ngo explained that acceptance means a congressional member has agreed to submit the project as part of their allocated funding requests. Ms. Ngo noted that the two defunded grants were related to community garden projects, while a cybersecurity grant was successfully awarded.

PRESENTED

3. Small Business Initiatives Update

City Manager William A. Hills advised that Managing Director Lisa Norris, Deputy City Manager Cheryl De Leon, and City staff have been working diligently on advancing the City's small business initiatives. Deputy City Manager De Leon provided an update on the Advancing Contracts Community Engagement Success (ACCESS-GP) small business initiative. Ms. De Leon explained that the City is proposing to rescind the previously approved 2022 DEI resolution and transition toward developing a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program in compliance with the President's 2025 Executive Order. The proposed program includes establishing a 30% aspirational SBE participation goal, reviewing available tools, and developing scoring initiatives. Success would be measured annually. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of the 30% goal. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Johnson expressed concern about the strain on staff and supported starting with a smaller goal. Ms. De Leon noted the City is working to improve and diversify programs, citing the Elevate Program, which helps individuals start businesses. Mayor Jensen emphasized the importance of educating businesses to help them qualify, noting that while many attend Expos, some ultimately choose not to participate. Council members shared varying perspectives. Council Member Adams asked whether 30% was achievable and ultimately supports it as a means to expand opportunities for local small businesses, referencing a prior disparity study documenting 27%. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Johnson raised concerns about flaws in the disparity study's methodology and emphasized trust in staff to develop a balanced approach rather than focusing solely on a numeric target. Council Member Del Bosque asked whether business Expos are part of the program, and Ms. De Leon affirmed they are. Council Member Headen suggested addressing educational gaps through the Economic Development Department and raised the possibility of conducting another survey. Council Member Lopez encouraged continued dialogue among Council members and stressed the importance of City Manager support. Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu voiced support for the 30% aspirational goal. Outreach efforts by Petrina Bonnick-Higgins were also acknowledged for helping educate businesses on how to work with the City. Ms. De Leon concluded by reviewing the proposed timeline for the SBE Program: framework adoption from February–April, configuration and training from May–September, and program launch beginning October 2026 and beyond.

PRESENTED

AGENDA REVIEW

Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu asked if Council had any questions regarding the Consent Agenda and noted he will be requesting to pull item fourteen to Individual Consideration. Council Member Shotwell asked to clarify item fifteen. Management Services Director Thao Vo advised it is a quarterly clean up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no closed session.

RECESS MEETING

Mayor Jensen called a recess at 5:44 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING

Mayor Jensen called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation led by Managing Director/Rev. Walter Shumac.

Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag and Texas Flag led by Council Member Headen.

PRESENTATIONS

4. State Representatives Jessica González and Julie E. Johnson's Recognition of Grand Prairie United Charities

   Ms. Ngo introduced Congresswoman's Julie Johnson's and State Representative Jessica Gonzalez's representatives, Christian Diaz, and Julian Jose Rico, who presented Grand Prairie United Charities' board members with recognition documents.

   PRESENTED

5. Vietnam Veterans of America's Recognition of Mayor Ron Jensen

   Ray Jean Bush and numerous veterans with Vietnam Veterans of America presented Mayor Jensen with a certificate of appreciation.

   PRESENTED

6. Police Department Crime Rate

   Assistant Director of Police Ryan Simpson and Police Chief Daniel Scesney presented an update on current Part I crime statistics. They reported that the crime index is at its lowest level since 1931, reflecting a 14% decrease in crime compared to 2024. They outlined several factors contributing to this reduction, including the use of evidence-based crime-fighting strategies, targeted enforcement plans, and enhanced use of technology.

   PRESENTED

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Minutes of the January 6, 2026 City Council Meeting

Approved on Consent Agenda

8. Boards and Commissions – Appointment of Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Member

   Approved on Consent Agenda

9. Quarterly Investment Report (Reviewed by the Finance and Government Committee on 01/06/2026)

   Approved on Consent Agenda

10. Peninsula PID Change Order/Amendment No. 1 with Bright Star Construction and Designs for installation of fence on Day Miar Road (additional work to repair failing concrete footers on Day Miar Road) in the amount of $62,257.50, for a one year term (Council Districts 4 and 6) Approved by the Peninsula PID Advisory Board on 12/11/2025

    Approved on Consent Agenda

11. Oak Hollow/Sheffield Village PID Contract with SPSD for landscape maintenance in the total amount of $176,601.70, including landscape maintenance $121,601.70, beautification $20,000, tree services $10,000, and irrigation system maintenance services $25,000, for a one year term (Council District 4)

    Approved on Consent Agenda

12. Resolution Approving the City's Investment Policy (Reviewed by the Finance and Government Committee on 01/06/2026)

    Harold Willis spoke in support of this item.

    ADOPTED

    RES 5519-2026

13. Resolution Terminating and Dissolving the Grand Prairie Industrial Development Authority

    ADOPTED

    RES 5520-2026

14. Rescind Resolution No. 5090-2020 and Approve Ordinance Repealing Section 13.5-1 of the City Code of Ordinances

    City Attorney Maleshia McGinnis presented the resolution to be rescinded. Council Member Clemson moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, to approve this item. The motion carried, 8-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu voting Nay.

    Moved to Individual Consideration – ADOPTED

    ORD 11830-2026

15. Ordinance Amending the FY 2025/2026 CIP Budget (Reviewed by the Finance and Government Committee on 01/06/2026)

ADOPTED

ORD 11831-2026

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Harold Willis, 538 Lindly, discussed school board issues.

Deloris Phillips, 2139 Dalworth St, Apt 119, discussed homelessness and a Dallas County family court case.

Deinna Mims-Johnson, 2843 Harvard Dr., discussed gas drilling and her property being taken via mineral leases with TEP.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

16. Resolution accepting the proposed project listing for a 2026 General Obligation (GO) Bond Program to serve as a planning tool for a potential bond election and bond sale

Mr. Vo reviewed the purpose of the proposed resolution, explaining that it serves as a planning tool only and does not authorize the issuance of debt or an increase in the tax rate. He noted that any approval of a GO bond would be determined by voters through a bond election. Mr. Vo further clarified that the wording referenced is intended solely for the ballot and does not represent the final name of the facility. Mr. Willis spoke in support of this item. Patsy Ray, 2217 El Paso, spoke in opposition of this item but noted she supports the street bond election. Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, to approve this item. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTED

RES 5521-2026

17. Public Hearing and Final Reading of an Ordinance amending various sections of Articles II and III of the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, "Utilities and Services" Relating to Fees for Water and Wastewater (Reviewed by the Finance and Government Committee on 08/05/2025 and City Council Budget Workshop on 08/14/2025)

Engineering/Utilities Department Director Noreen Housewright presented the final reading of the ordinance and reviewed the results of the FY 2025–26 cost-of-service study, which indicates that a 4.5% rate increase is necessary, effective February 1, 2026. The last rate adjustment occurred in October 2024. Mayor Jensen opened the floor for public comment. Harold Willis spoke in support of this item. Council Member Shotwell raised concerns regarding the timing of the proposed increase, noting that trash and water rates would be increasing simultaneously. Harold Willis noted his support of this item. Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu, to close the public hearing and approve this item. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTED

ORD 11832-2026

PUBLIC HEARING ZONING APPLICATIONS

18. ZON-25-10-0040 - Zoning Change – 1822 Armstead Ave. (City Council District 3). Zoning Change from Single Family-Four (SF-4) to Single Family-Six (SF-6) on 0.46 acres. Lots 1, 2, & 6A, Block 8, Mountain Lakeview Addition, City of Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas, zoned Single Family-Four (SF-4) District, and addressed as 1822 Armstead Ave (On December 9, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval by a vote of 6-0)

    Assistant Director of Planning Savannah Ware presented the zoning change which if approved would allow the applicant to replat the property and develop multiple single family homes. She noted one note of opposition was received. The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) approved, and the Development Review Committee (DRC) recommends approval. Council Member Del Bosque noted he met with the developer, he then moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, to approve this item. The motion carried unanimously.

    ADOPTED

    ORD 11833-2026

19. VCC-25-09-0003 - Fence Exception - Hill Street Screening Fence (City Council District 5). Exception to Required Fences in the Unified Development Code (UDC) to allow a wooden fence instead of the required masonry screening wall along the western and northern property lines of 300 and 306 Hill Street. The western and northern property lines of 306 Hill Street, a 0.69-acre tract, McKinney and Williams Abstract No. 1003, City of Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas and the northern property line of 300 Hill Street, a 0.38-acre tract, McKinney and Williams Abstract No. 1003, City of Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas and 306 Hill Street, City of Grand Prairie, Dallas County, Texas (On December 9, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval by a vote of 6-0)

    Ms. Ware reviewed the fence exception request, proposed elevations and noted the P&Z and DRC approved. Mayor Pro Tem Ezeonu asked to clarify what the build would be and Ms. Ware clarified it would be a plant nursery/garden. Council Member Shotwell asked to clarify if trees would be stocked. Applicant Sonia Spray, 400 N. Ervay, Dallas, noted they carry small ornamental trees. She also advised she plans to plant trees - live oaks and cherry laurels - for screening. Council Member Shotwell moved, seconded by Council Member Headen, to approve the fencing exception for this lot. The motion carried unanimously.

    APPROVED

20. SUP-25-08-0030 - Specific Use Permit - Registered Group Home (City Council District 4). Specific Use Permit for a Registered Group Home on 0.15 acres. Lot 4, Block D, Kingswood Forest Addition Phase I, City of Grand Prairie, Tarrant County, zoned Planned Development-169 (PD-169) district, and addressed as 2747 Sedgemoor Dr (On October 14, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval by a vote of 9-0)

Ms. Ware briefly reviewed the item, followed by public comment from Mr. Willis, who spoke in opposition. Council Member Lopez reported receiving additional data from the Grand Prairie Fire Department indicating more than 50 calls for service were received over the past 18 months. Council Member Lopez moved, seconded by Council Member Del Bosque, to approve the Special Use Permit (SUP) with a restriction limiting occupancy to three individuals. During discussion, questions were raised regarding whether the applicant intended to proceed with the required state application, as the operation is not currently legally permitted. Council Member Lopez amended his motion to increase the maximum occupancy to four individuals, and Council Member Del Bosque accepted and seconded the amended motion. Further discussion centered on whether the limit should be three or four occupants. Deputy City Attorney Julie Dosher clarified that approval for four occupants would require the installation of a fire suppression system. The applicant expressed a preference for six occupants. The motion to approve the SUP with a maximum of four occupants carried by an 8–1 vote, with Council Member Shotwell voting in opposition.

ADOPTED

ORD 11834-2026

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jensen adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the February 3, 2026, City Council meeting.

Mona Lisa Galicia, City Secretary