

Meeting of
of
THE CITY OF PARKER CITY COUNCIL
November 15, 2022
5:30 pm
PARKER CITY HALL

Called to order at 5:30 by Mayor Kelly

Invocation given by Pastor Dr. Alex Palomaria of The Parker Global Methodist Church
Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Chaple.

ROLL CALL – Clerk Hinrichs

Ms. Barrow- present
Mr. Chaple – present
Ms. Galbreath – present
Ms. Gibson – present
Mayor Kelly – present

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE (non-agenda items)

1. Ms. Anna Marie Morris of 129 N. Lakewood Dr, voiced concern over having to pay taxes as she owns properties in several other cities nearby, she has to pass the cost on to her renters. The need for additional revenue will increase each year. Asking if the benefit of maintaining the City of Parker is just to support this governance?

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Ms. Barrow and a second of Mr. Galbreath, the council approved the minutes from November 1, 2022, as presented.

Ms. Barrow- aye
Mr. Chaple – aye
Ms. Galbreath – aye
Ms. Gibson – aye
Mayor Kelly – aye

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. **730 West Street** –Wildhaber/McMurray – not in attendance, will table till next meeting.
2. **Joining of Parcels at 5100 and 5102 Hickory Street - Yonts via Zoom.** Mr. Yonts attended the meeting, he is selling the parcels and the bank will only allow the funding if it is one parcel. Will remain a duplex. Lots are currently less than the required square footage per LDR. If homes are joined into a single-family home, it would meet LDR requirements. Parcels are non-conforming either way, whether due to lot sizes or duplex status. Mr. Sloan reminded the

council that the request will extend beyond sale of property to new owner. On a motion by Ms. Barrow and as second of Ms. Gibson, the council approved the joining of the two parcels.

Ms. Barrow- aye
Mr. Chaple – aye
Ms. Galbreath – aye
Ms. Gibson – aye
Mayor Kelly – aye

3. **Heritage Funeral Home 5213 E Bus 98 – Request for variance on setback of overhang - Chris Walker in attendance** – Ms. Galbreath asked if there is a permit for the overhang, Mr. Walker said a permit was sent to EPCI but during construction it was noticed that it was in the setbacks. A stop work order was placed. Mr. Walker said the stop work order was due to building in the setbacks. Mr. Walker said this was an overhang prior to the storm. Mr. Creel walked the site with Mr. Walker, and they spoke about the porch. The city requested all permits on property from EPCI this week and did not receive a permit for the overhang. Overhang poles will be in the setback. Drawing sent to city for site plan shows overhang between two buildings, not on front of building. Ms. Galbreath has concern that a permit may have been issued in error and may be administrative error in allowing the permit to be issued in the setback, she feels the variance would allow for the structure to remain. The clerk reiterated that the city spoke with EPCI and there is no permit for the overhang. Mayor will speak with Mr. Creel of EPCI to see if a permit exists for the overhang. The council would like the structure to be rebuilt without a variance as it was prior to the storm, a permit needs to be issued. Mr. Walker and Mayor Kelly will speak with EPCI and rehear the request at the next council meeting.
4. **730 West Street – Roger McMurray in attendance** – Mr. McMurray would like to buy property and build a home on site. It is approximately 7100 sq. ft lot, which is smaller than the 7500 sq ft required by the LDR. Mr. Sloan reminded the council this could set a precedent if variance allowed, also can create a hardship to neighbors, planning committee recommended approval of variance. Ms. Galbreath voiced concern that this will be the smallest lot in the area. Ms. Gibson said she heard the discussion of the planning committee, and it makes sense to her to allow variance so the lot can be cleaned up and a home built, that a variance is for specific reasons. Discussion over lot size and use. Mr. McMurray owns the lot across the street. On a motion by Ms. Gibson and as second of Ms. Barrow, the council approved the variance to allow for a home to be built on parcel 25529-020-000.

Ms. Barrow - aye
Mr. Chaple – aye
Ms. Galbreath – nay
Ms. Gibson – aye
Mayor Kelly – aye

5. **Allowance of temporary building at 628 Tyndall Parkway – Hettinger** – Mike Hettinger, owner of the property, would like to keep the temporary office building for at least one more year. Mr. Hettinger would like to build on the property but has been speaking with Anchor Engineering and it will require a lift station to be placed to build any more than 7 townhomes on site. Mr. Hettinger is keeping site maintained, grass mowed. On a motion by Ms. Barrow and as second of Ms. Gibson, the council approved the allowance of the temporary building for an

additional year. Discussion of water and sewer capacity needs of the city. Ms. Galbreath asked if we could allow a monthly approval. After council discussion, the motion stayed as stated and the allowance is for one year.

Ms. Barrow - aye
Mr. Chaple – aye
Ms. Galbreath – nay
Ms. Gibson – aye
Mayor Kelly – nay

6. **Discussion of revenue options for the city going forward – Council asked to hear from the citizens and to their input** - Ms. Kathleen O'Brien of 1455 Parkway Drive, is in favor of raising taxes so Parker can continue to grow. Ms. O'Brien stated there is an application at Panama City to defer an assessment for those in need of assistance. Beverly Hutto, address not given, would agree to pay \$30 monthly to help with revenue, does not feel that the presentation made by Mr. Lawson at the last meeting was a good choice. Ms. Galbreath has reached out to Panama City and said the assessment that Mr. Lawson put together for them is a great plan and has been challenged in court and won. Mr. Gary Brannon of 1036 Brannon Place, asked if there is a plan B? Discussion of need to improve our infrastructure. Northwest Florida Rural Water District told the city in their report presented previously to the council and citizens that money must stay in the utility department to repair the system. Ms. Galbreath said the department head's 5-year plan will require 1.3 million dollars next year to meet the needs. Mr. Sloan reminded all that an assessment can only be allocated to fire or stormwater, ad valorem can be used at the discretion of the council. The clerk read what the surrounding cities pay for ad valorem now. Mayor asked if the citizens prefer assessment or ad valorem, many stated ad valorem. Mr. Chuck Tindell of 1201 E Park St said the city has got to do something to stay a city, he is in favor of ad valorem over an assessment. Mr. Tindell asked if taxing can be done by council vote? Mayor Kelly stated he campaigned on no new taxes but did not understand the need of the city at the time. Mayor Kelly would like to see many citizens show up to the 5th Tuesday meeting to discuss further. If put to a referendum and it doesn't pass, the city may have to dissolve. Mr. Tindell asks that the council be a leader and educate the citizens on what is needed. Ms. Susan Kimball of 4809 Sunset Drive stated an assessment could help until ad valorem goes into effect. Mr. Bill Libby of Sunset Dr supports the ad valorem and asks that the council be the stewards for the citizens and not depend on outsiders. Mr. Jimmy Lumley stated he would pay taxes to keep Parker running. Mr. Jeremy Jones of 527 Shade Street stated he is a 37-year-old man who has lived in Parker his entire life, this is his first meeting he has attended, and feels it best that council makes this decision. Discussion that many residents are renters and don't pay property taxes but do vote. Ms. Diane Coates of Dover Drive, asked why the magistrate lowers fines when property owners come before him for unfit/unsafe violations? She would like the owners to not be given a break. Mr. Sloan is working on writing an ordinance for the procedures. Mayor asked that everyone come to the 5th Tuesday discussion and a letter of the meeting will be sent to residents with a water bill.

Mr. Chaple reminded all that 5th Tuesday is the 29th.

Mayor Kelly asked that the council declare the k9 dog as surplus as it has been retired to its handler, a former police officer of Parker. Mayor received a letter from the company the contract

for the k9 was with and they concur that the dog stays with its current handler. Motion by Ms. Galbreath and a second by Ms. Gibson to declare the K9 surplus.

Ms. Barrow- aye
Mr. Chaple – aye
Ms. Galbreath – aye
Ms. Gibson – aye
Mayor Kelly – aye

Adjournment at approximately 7:15 pm



Jami Hinrichs, City Clerk