



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Contact: Laurie Mullens
972-899-5131 / 940-597-3721
lmullens@highlandvillage.org

1000 Highland Village Road
Highland Village, TX 75077
www.highlandvillage.org

Council Discusses Proposed Amendments to the City Charter

At the January 10 meeting, Council discussed proposed amendments to the City Charter. The proposed amendments include updates regarding state laws and the election code, as well as language clarification. The proposed amendments which clarify language to provide consistency with state law include Council member residency qualifications and eligibility to seek another office or position while currently serving on Council, filing for office and public records. Amendments proposed which are clarifying language and/or procedural in nature include procedures to enact legislation, the composition of a Council quorum, codification of city ordinances, and term clarifications relating to petitions. Two sections are proposed to be repealed, the appointment of municipal clerk and provisions of the Parks and Recreation Board, as both are addressed in the City Code of Ordinances. Public hearings will be held on January 24 and February 14, with Council ordering the election on February 14. The amendments will be considered by residents on the May 6 election.

Council approved a resolution establishing the City's legislative policy which addresses issues and concerns impacting the City that may be addressed during the 2017 legislative session. Highland Village's policy focuses on maintaining local control as local government is the most accountable and effective level of government.

Council received a presentation for Police Chief Doug Reim regarding an analysis of speed studies conducted throughout the City over the last four years. The speed surveys disclosed that 85 percent of the traffic never traveled more than five mph over the posted speed limit, and in two surveys, actually under the posted speed limit which included two major highways – FM 407 and FM 2499/Village Parkway. Speed limits in Texas are set by the "85th percentile method", which represents the speed the majority (or 85%) of drivers will be traveling at or below and a concept which has been incorporated into the engineering principle to set speed limits on streets and roads for over 60 years. In conjunction with the 85th percentile method, HVPD encourages officer discretion during traffic enforcement. HVPD embraces a true Community Policing Philosophy using education, presence, and collaboration to reach or exceed the community's goals.

During Mayor and Council reports, Mayor Wilcox recognized Tate Dodson as Mayor for the Day. Mr. Dodson, a fourth-grade student at Heritage Elementary, assisted Mayor Wilcox throughout the Council meeting. CoServ presented the city a Capital Credit check in the amount of \$20,796.67. Also during the Mayor's Report, girls from Destination Imagination shared information about the Messy Mutts Arty Party they Saturday, January 21 from 1-3 p.m. at the Unity Park pavilion. The Party is being held to get dogs ready for the opening of Highland Village's dog park with registrations and low-cost vaccinations, have a community event to promote the dog park opening, to raise money to cover the cost of the party with additional funding being donated to the City for dog park needs. Activities at the event include a photo station for dog owners to take a picture with their dog, paw print art creations and a raffle with fun prizes. In conjunction with the Messy Mutts Arty Party presentation, City Manager Leavitt

provided an update on the City dog park. The park is located at Unity Park and will include a small dog and large dog area. The contractor has completed the work and the sod has been laid and needs time to establish before the park can open to the public. It is anticipated the park will open mid-April 2017.

During the City Manager Report, an update was provided on the 35Express project. The [HVTV Update](#) informed residents of the Father & Daughter Dance scheduled for Friday, February 3, the Give Us Your Best Shot photo contest, and encouraged residents to sign up for Nixle to receive neighborhood specific notifications from the City. The Update also informed residents of the special services DCTA provides Highland Village residents.

The City Council early work session and regular session is available on HVTV (Time Warner 16; Verizon 43) and via website streaming by searching HVTV. The meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the city website.