

CITY OF DENTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2020

After determining that a quorum was present, the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a Work Session on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 6:31 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Gerard Hudspeth and Council Members Keely Briggs, Jesse Davis, John Ryan, Deb Armintor, and Paul Meltzer

ABSENT: Mayor Chris Watts

Also present were City Manager Todd Hileman and City Attorney Aaron Leal.

Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth served as Presiding Officer in the absence of Mayor Watts.

Note: Mayor Pro Tem Gerard Hudspeth, and Council Members Keely Briggs, Jesse Davis, John Ryan, Deb Armintor and Paul Meltzer, as well as Council Member-Elect Birdia Johnson participated in the Regular Meeting via video/teleconference, with some members participating in person as needed.

The posted agenda noted the registration process for public participation at this virtual meeting. While citizen commentary received via the online registration process was not read, each member of the City Council received each registration as it was submitted.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. U.S. Flag and B. Texas Flag

2. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

A. ID 20-2366 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the use of polling locations for the December 8, 2020 Runoff Election.

Citizen comments received are noted in Exhibit A. All members of the City Council received the comments as submitted and had the opportunity to review all submissions prior to the start of the meeting and consider such comments when voting on the item. The summary of public commentary/registration(s) is noted in Exhibit A.

The item was presented and discussion followed.

Citizen comments received are noted in Exhibit A.

Following discussion, there was no direction as the item was for presentation purposes only. Staff committed toward presenting polling locations well in advance of any election.

- B. ID 20-1718 Consider adoption of an ordinance canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the Regular Municipal Election to elect three City Council Members to Places 5, 6, and a Mayor to Place 7 of the City Council of the City of Denton, held in the City of Denton on November 3, 2020; declaring that no candidate received the majority of votes cast for Place 6 or for Mayor to Place 7 and that a Runoff Election is ordered to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020; and providing an effective date.

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-1718

The election results reported the following; as a result, each candidate qualified for election to the noted place. With the following candidate having received over 50% of total votes cast in the respective place, a runoff election was not necessary.

Place 5	Deb Armintor	Elected
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The election results reported the following; as a result, each candidate qualified for election to the noted place. With the following candidates not having received over 50% of total votes cast in their respective place, a runoff election was necessary and scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Place 6	Jim Mann	Not Elected
Place 6	Paul Meltzer	Not Elected
Place 7	Keely Briggs	Not Elected
Place 7	Gerard Hudspeth	Not Elected

Staff further reported that because the City Charter did not address how the order of names for a runoff election were to be determined, Texas Election Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 52.094 applies and provides that “... *The order of the candidates' names on the ballot of any resulting runoff election ... shall be the relative order of names on the original election ballot.*” Therefore, the order of names on the runoff election ballot shall be in the order indicated above by place number.

Council Member Briggs moved to adopt the item as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Armintor. Motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Members Briggs, Davis, Ryan, Armintor, and Meltzer

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Mayor Watts

- C. ID 20-1719 Consider adoption of an ordinance canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the Special Municipal Election to elect two City Council Members to Districts 1 and 2 of the City Council of the City of Denton, held in the City of Denton on November 3, 2020; declaring that no candidate received the majority of votes cast for District 2 and that a Runoff Election is ordered to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020; and providing an effective date.

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-1719

The election results reported the following; as a result, each candidate qualified for election to the noted district. With the following candidate having received over 50% of total votes cast in the respective district, a runoff election was not necessary.

District 1	Birdia Johnson	Elected
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The election results reported the following; as a result, each candidate qualified for election to the noted district. With the following candidates not having received over 50% of total votes cast in their respective district, a runoff election was necessary and scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

District 2	Ronnie Anderson	Not Elected
District 2	Connie Baker	Not Elected

Staff further reported that because the City Charter did not address how the order of names for a runoff election were to be determined, Texas Election Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 52.094 applies and provides that “... *The order of the candidates' names on the ballot of any resulting runoff election ... shall be the relative order of names on the original election ballot.*” Therefore, the order of names on the runoff election ballot shall be in the order indicated above by place number.

Council Member Briggs moved to adopt the item as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Meltzer. Motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Members Briggs, Davis, Ryan, Armintor, and Meltzer

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (1): Mayor Watts

- D. ID 20-1720 Issue the following to newly Elected Council Members:

- Certificate of Election
- Statement of Officer
- Oaths of Office

Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth presented the newly elected members// noted below with a Certificate of Election, after which Deputy City Secretary Parker administered the Statement of Officer and Oaths of Office to each.

Place 5 Deb Armintor
District 1 Birdia Johnson

- E. ID 20-1722 Consider approval of a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Gerard Hudspeth.
POSTPONED TO FUTURE DATE

The item was postponed at Mayor Pro Tem's request to a future meeting to allow Mayor Watt's to conduct the presentation.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



CHRIS WATTS
MAYOR
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

By: Interim Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Davis



ZOLAINA R. PARKER
DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON: December 1, 2020

November 17, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting - EXHIBIT A

Speaker Commentaries/Registrations Online, Email, Phone

Name	Last	Address	City	Agenda Item	Position	Method	Comments
Carolyn	Bail	901 Barbara St	Denton	20-2366	Support	Online	Please approve UNT as a polling place. Voter suppression is a serious issue and failure to provide adequate polling locations is a leading cause of voter suppression. It is your duty to provide access for voters to complete their civic duty of voting.
Sharon	Barnhill	3329 Hummingbird Lane	Denton	20-2366	Support	Online	If there's a polling location convenient to Robson Ranch, then there needs to be one in the heart of UNT/Denton. Disenfranchising voters by throwing up hardships for them to get to the polls may be true for certain candidates, but it's not right for Denton. Stop making this an issue. Set up a polling site convenient to people who may not have a car or access to transportation. Why are we catering exclusively to the Robson Ranch voters while flipping off voters who actually live in Denton?
Charlotte	Cooke	418 Demoye Street	Aubrey	20-2366	N/A	Telephone	Have it as a location to serve students and faculty; safe environment.
Alejandro	Galindo Juarez	2325 North Way	Denton	20-2366	N/A	Telephone	Congratulations to all who won and good luck to all who are still campaigning; why is this an issue about UNT - Gateway being a location for polling/voting. Time to stop suppressing voters at UNT.
Jennifer	Lane	1526 Willow Wood	Denton	20-2366	N/A	Telephone	Has been involved in student voting; students want to vote and not be suppressed; anyone can vote at UNT and would benefit all residents; is happy to see the turnout and would like the poll to be kept at UNT; we influence community, please do more to campaign and keep location.
Tiffany	Miller	6201 Highfield Park	Denton	20-2366	N/A	Telephone	Is a graduate Student Council President; represents over 7,000 students; biggest needs and concern of graduate students was jobs security and financial resources; has to deal with colleagues regarding stress and anxiety, how are polling sites determined, what information is being sought to connect with students?
Bonnie	Moore	2520 Broadway Drive	Trophy Club	20-2366	Support	Online & Telephone	Why do we have to continually address having a polling location on campus at UNT. The majority of students living on or near campus do not have transportation. I worked as an alternate judge for the primary elections at Gateway Center and the faculty, staff and neighbors were so grateful for a polling site they could easily get to. I appreciate having a polling location at Robson Ranch, I also appreciate having one at UNT. Is the student engagement director and registers student at UNT, TWU, and local high schools; upset and concerned when UNT - Gateway location was not going to be used. If Gateway location is eliminated students without transportation will not be able to vote; taking away access is very concerning.
Hilari	Oller	302 Jague St. Apt A	Denton	20-2366	Support	Online	It would be a great asset to the community surrounding UNT and the students to have a polling location on the UNT campus. Our goal as a community should be to provide all areas of the city with easily-accessible voting locations. I believe that adding a polling location on the UNT campus would be a great way to encourage students and citizens to vote. Please consider adding a polling location at UNT. All voices within our community are important. The more that are heard, the better. Thank you.

NOTE: Comments for those citizens addressing the City Council are an abbreviated summary. Information contained within this exhibit includes only commentary for Open Microphone, Consent, Individual Consideration and Public Hearing items.