

CITY OF DENTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
February 4, 2021

The Denton City Council and City staff hosted a virtual State of the City on Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gerard Hudspeth, Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Davis and Council Members Birdia Johnson, Connie Baker, John Ryan, Deb Armintor, and Paul Meltzer

**Note: Mayor Gerard Hudspeth, Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Davis and Council Members Birdia Johnson, Connie Baker, John Ryan, Deb Armintor, and Paul Meltzer participated in the work session, and special meeting via video/teleconference under the provisions allowed by the Texas Government Code Section 551.127.**

Also present was City Manager Hileman.

Video was shown spotlighting city departments and accomplishments during Year 2020.

- Emergency response/preparedness due to Covid-19 pandemic
- Enhancement of public meeting protocols promoting participation in virtual platform
- Housing provided by non-profit agencies shifted shelter assistance to local hotels
- Volunteer services by city employees
- Disconnection of services temporarily postponed
- Budget adopted with no property tax increase with decrease in water/solid waste services
- Purchase of new 311 service system thereby increasing service efficiency and response
- Refund of outstanding debt obligations (\$6+ million savings)
- Roadway improvements
- Capital Infrastructure Projects underway
- Chief of Police Advisory Committee
- Increase in police officer staffing
- New Firefighter facilities and staffing
- Emergency Food pantry to assist pet owners
- 2020 Action Plan adopted by City Council
- Improvements to Trails, Parks, Playgrounds
- Approved Cole Ranch & Hunter Ranch
- Reduced review time for private projects
- Commercial Development Permits
- Industrial Area experiencing growth

City Manager Hileman briefly discussed City accomplishments, credited employees for maintaining service deliveries among the challenges faced and found ways to continue being productive, first responders thanked and acknowledged City Council on their work including the support from the community.

Mayor Hudspeth reported on focus being to take care of residents from a fiscal perspective which covered the following:

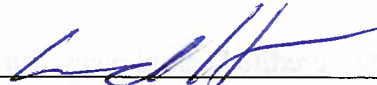
- Property Tax remaining steady at \$0.5950454 per \$100 of assessed valuation
- 2020 Certified Assessed Value at \$13.6 Billion
- Need for community to stay together, including those experiencing homelessness.
- Infrastructure Projects including Hickory Street to be completed in the next year and Atmos having invested in City's infrastructure
- Economic Development: Northlakes Park, NCTC Downtown Campus, Stoke, Westpark Industrial Development, and Cole Ranch & Hunter Ranch


Question & Answer session followed of Mayor Hudspeth, reflecting on the following. Throughout the Q&A, each member of the City Council had the opportunity to provide a brief greeting, some of whom highlighted the special opportunities each district/section of the city had to offer.

- How first week was as Mayor of the City
- Fiscal condition of the City
- Infrastructure would continue to be a priority in the coming year
- Steps City was taking to increase bike/pedestrian safety and mobility
- Purchase of a building on Loop 288 to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness
- Award of two economic development grants to stimulate local tech startups
- Parks and recreation amenities
- Senior citizen services
- Efforts in addressing air quality issues/needs
- City serves as an advocate in disseminating information on Covid vaccines with final authority falling to the County/State
- City's efforts in preventing crime a priority for the City and Police Department
- What made him most proud to lead Denton
- Friday Report distributed by the City Manager which includes valuable information for all to read
- Denton Police Academy and benefits to participating

Citizens were encouraged to use the Engage Denton Application, review the Annual Report recently distributed, and informed the video of the State of the City will be available online.

The session ended at 7:03 p.m.

  
GERARD HUDSPETH  
MAYOR  
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

  
ROSA RIOS  
CITY SECRETARY  
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON: February 16, 2021