



The Mayor's Quarterly 360° Meeting with homeowners' association/neighborhood representatives and citizens met Thursday, July 18, 2013, in the Council Chamber located in City Hall at 211 East Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, Texas, with the following members present:

Staff: Mayor Carl O. Sherman, Councilmember Rachel Proctor, City Manager, Dr. Tarron Richardson, Assistant to the City Manager/Community Initiative Tracie Hlavinka, Officer Cindy Tyndall, and Code Enforcement Officer Charles Humphrey

Attendees:

DeMarcus Harris

Neal Benson

Joel Sontag

Don Page

Joyce Hill

Carol Mason

Tiley Kerr

Lavarn Holcomb

Gary Woods

Janal Lee

Tredell Washington

Connie JeanPierre

James E. Collier

George Jones

Felicia Blair

Lena Johnson

Tony Pearson

John Sudds

Johnnie King

Adrian Booker

Jazmine Booker

Angela Sander

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

I. Welcome

- Mayor Carl Sherman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- The Mayor recognized Airforce Captain George Jones and Retired Army 1st Sergeant Terrance Campbell.

II. Veterans Efforts

- Captain George Jones and Retired 1st Sergeant Terrance Campbell presented information regarding veteran affairs initiatives for DeSoto.
- Captain Jones informed representatives that all veterans are welcomed in the community and gave examples such as the welcome message displayed on the median sign. Other initiatives in the works are ensuring all veterans receive their benefits once home.
- Retired 1st Sargent Campbell explained how this new program will be working with the VA to assist veterans with their needs. In order to accomplish these tasks, the Veterans Affair Committee is requesting help in locating veterans within the community. Associations can assist with this endeavor by asking residents to give knowledge of veterans within their community.
- Captain Jones announced the Veterans Affair Committee would like to gather names, addresses, phone numbers and other contact information of veterans within DeSoto to make them aware of veteran events, opportunities and benefits.

III. Bicycling Lanes

- Mayor Sherman expressed the Council would like to hear more from the DeSoto citizens before making a definitive decision on incorporating bicycle lanes within the city streets.
- The Mayor informed representatives that the best way to let Council know their feedback on this type of project would be through the Capital Improvement cards that are sent out each year around the beginning of September.
- If there is a satisfying response for bicycle lanes, this type of project will be implemented in phases.

IV. Round Table Discussion

- A Creek Tree representative inquired about putting a “No U-turn” sign at the intersection of Pleasant Run Road and the Meadows Parkway. The representative stated witnessing several near misses at this intersection due to U-turns.
- An inquiry was made as to whether each Council member was required to meet with the associations/neighborhood groups within their districts. The Mayor responded to the inquiry stating there is no mandate for each Councilmember to meet with each of the groups, but did stress that when they are aware of a meeting and have been invited, they try to attend.
- Another representative made a suggestion in reference to the Veteran Affairs. The recommendation was to welcome home veterans at the DeSoto High School Football games. The representative also suggested putting information regarding the veteran’s initiative in the football program.
- One representative noted he was not pleased with the response received regarding relocating the Library book drop. The representative felt the communication was vague and requested clarity. The Mayor stated he would get more information and follow-up with the representative.
- A citizen asked the Mayor what can be done to keep DeSoto from turning into a crime mecca. The Mayor explained the Police Chief has a new strategy, which involves dividing the city into four quadrants. The dividing lines for these quadrants are Pleasant Run Road and Hampton Road. There are Police Lieutenants responsible for monitoring activity for each of these quadrants. Along with the quadrants, the Chief has put more Officers on the streets by re-organizing the department allowing for more individuals to conduct patrols.
- An inquiry was made regarding a burnt house on Wintergreen Road. Charles Humphrey, Code Enforcement Supervisor, informed representatives that a notice was issued to the property owner. The property owner has secured a permit with the City to start construction for repairs.
- A compliment was expressed to the City Manager and the City in reference to utilizing the Code Red system informing residents of the upcoming Comprehensive Plan public meetings.

V. Comments

- The Mayor concluded the meeting reminding representatives that the Kohl’s Commerce facility is the largest corporate development in DeSoto’s history. This facility will soon be the largest employer passing the school district. Kohl’s is forecasted to have over 2000 employees. The ecommerce center is a great addition.
- Dallas County and Commissioner Price have been committed to the reconstruction of Daniieldale Road. This is a great benefit to the industrial district.

VI. Adjournment

- Mayor Carl Sherman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Hlavinka
Assistant to the City Manager
Community Initiatives
City of DeSoto