



Meeting August 6, 2013 City Manager's Staff Meeting Notes

City Staff met at City Hall on August 6, 2013 at 8:30 AM with the following persons present:

Larry Graves
Tommy Lemond
Pat Stallings
Patrick Harvey
Jim Berman
Liz Gant
Dara Crabtree
Cindy Brown
Marty Anderson

Employee Recognition:
Chris Caballero, Facility Maintenance

Tuesday, August 13, 2013 City Manager's Staff Meeting at the Senior Center
Monday, August 19, 2013 City Council Meeting

Updates:

Tommy Lemond stated that the Fire Department will be participating in a joint swift water training exercise on the Trinity River this Thursday, August 8, 2013 along with Garland, Balch Springs, and Forney Fire Departments. Tommy Lemond advised that they will get their continuing education through this exercise and show area agencies how to operate the City's water rescue equipment.

Pat Stallings advised that the City has been experiencing an increase in burglaries and thefts in the past few months. Pat Stallings stated that with surveillance video obtained from a local business, officers were able to identify and apprehend an offender responsible for several local burglaries. Pat Stallings shared that arrests were also made in the Walmart cash office theft and the hit and run pedestrian fatality. Pat Stallings stated that there are organized crime rings operating throughout Texas. One of these crime rings operating out of Ft. Worth steals cigarettes and another one operating out of Dallas, targets cash safes at businesses. Pat Stallings quoted the following Part One Crime rates for 2012 based per 100,000 population:

Seagoville	4242
Addison	6855
Balch Springs	6344
Lancaster	4427
Mesquite	4645
Dallas	5048

Patrick Stallings shared that theft is our most prevalent crime and that is primarily retail theft.

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Patrick Harvey shared that the City Council approved the record tax rate, which basically means there is a ceiling set on property tax rates. The current record tax rate is .713794.

Jim Berman stated that the playground at 708 Elmo Street in the Stafford Addition is almost complete. Jim Berman wanted to let the Police Department know that there will be more activity there. Jim Berman advised that today at 2:00 PM bids will open for the Cain Street Water Tower project. Jim Berman stated that this is a very large project for them and will entail refurbishing the water tower and moving all of the communications equipment that is currently located under the tower. Jim Berman shared that he received a bid from DFW Communications for moving all of the communications equipment into the building that SuddenLink donated to the City. Jim Berman reminded the Directors to submit photos of various activities that are occurring around the City to him. Jim Berman advised that Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 2:00 PM watermelon will be served under the oak trees at City Hall. Jim Berman stated that on the water department side there has been a lot of activity due to the ground being so dry and shifting and they replaced a water hydrant on Glenn and another one at Reeves and Shady. Jim Berman advised that they have not really had any down time but rather go from one job to the next. Jim Berman shared that on the extremely hot days he is sending crews to the service center to clean up after about 2:00 PM.

Liz Gant stated that she and Dara Crabtree have been working on establishing a shared folder on the City's server which will require MS Office software in order to allow those not on the network access to documents in the shared folder. Liz Gant shared that the summer program was a great success and ended last week. Liz Gant stated that there was a reading contest and the children who read the most books will receive a book of their choice from the Friends of the Library and the older children will be allowed to work in the Library for an afternoon. Liz Gant advised that the date for Arbor Day will be November 2, 2013 and this year they would like to initiate an e-cycling campaign to collect discarded electronic devices. Liz Gant shared that things are winding down in the Library for the summer.

Dara Crabtree elaborated that in the shared folder will be an Agenda folder, Council packets, signed resolutions, ordinances, and contracts so people will have electronic access. Dara Crabtree reviewed agenda items for the August 19, 2013 City Council meeting with the Directors.

Cindy Brown advised that the City has gone out for bids on all employee insurance. Bids will be opened on August 21, 2013.

Larry Graves stated that this Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 2:00 PM the City will be hosting "Watermelon under the Oaks" for all to stop by and have a slice of watermelon.