

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE CITY OF LAMPASAS, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
302 E THIRD STREET
Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Lampasas met in Special Session on the above date with Mayor Talbert presiding.

Council Members present:

T.J. Monroe, Mayor Pro Tem
Chuck Williamson
Mike White
Cathy Kuehne
Randy Clark
Delana Toups (arrived at 5:33 p.m.)

Council Members absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Finley deGraffenried, City Manager
Rickie Roy, Assistant City Manager
Christina Marez, City Secretary
Becky Sims, Asst. City Secretary
Yvonne Moreno, Finance Director
Sammy Bailey, Police Chief
Chris Eicher, Parks & Recreation Director
Vicki Tower, Parks Secretary

**PUBLIC HEARING
5:30 P.M.**

I. Call to order Public Hearing

Mayor Talbert called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

- II. Public hearing to receive citizen comments regarding the proposed tax rate. upon all property subject to taxation within the City of Lampasas, Texas for the 2020 tax year for the use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Lampasas for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021; apportioning said levy among the various funds and items for which revenue must be raised including providing a sinking fund for the retirement of the bonded debt of the City, and establishing an effective date.

Mayor Talbert read out loud the Public Hearing item and opened the Public Hearing for any citizen comments.

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe moved to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a vote of six in favor and one absent (Toups), the motion carried.

III. Adjourn Public Hearing

Council member Kuehne moved to adjourn Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Council member White and with a vote of six in favor and one absent (Toups), the motion carried.

City Manager deGraffenried reminded the Mayor to announce the meeting date, time and place of the meeting at which the City Council will vote on the tax rate, as required per State requirements.

Mayor Talbert announced that the meeting to vote on the tax rate is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers located at 302 East Third Street, Lampasas, Texas.

Mayor Talbert also announced that those in attendance that could remain 6 feet distanced from each other could remove their masks if they chose to. She also noted that those that wanted to speak to please wait for the microphone in order to be heard and recorded.

REGULAR SPECIAL SESSION (Special meeting)
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IV. Call to order

Mayor Talbert called the Special Session to order at 5:32 p.m.

- V. Discussion regarding proposed location for City of Lampasas Skatepark with Lampasas Association for the Arts and Wings of Eagles Outreach

Those in attendance:

LAFTA members: Boyce Cabaniss, President; Tina Matney, Lynn Greenwood, Janna Hammett, Jennifer Bunting, Tom Welch, Zac Morris, Vice-President; and Robin Gradel

Wings of Eagles Outreach: Marisa Skiles and Lisa Parker, President

Boyce Cabaniss, LAFTA Board President, provided the following comments:

- On behalf of LAFTA, they wanted to thank the City for the 15-year partnership in improvements to Sculpture Garden/Campbell Park such as lighting, electricity, sidewalks and the restrooms most recently.
- LAFTA has raised and invested over \$300,000.00 in art work and Campbell Park is a regionally known sculpture park. It has become the number one tourist attraction in Lampasas with top artists from Texas and around the nation.
- LAFTA is not opposed to a Skatepark and has pledged to work with the Wings of Eagles Outreach, as especially the skaters, and put graffiti art on their Skatepark.
- LAFTA understands it's the City's decision on the location. LAFTA prefers for the Skatepark not to go on the western part of the park near the restrooms due to their plan to put a pavilion in that location. With everything the City has already done for Campbell Park, they have no immediate plans to ask for assistance from the City for the pavilion.
- LAFTA felt that the Skatepark should go near the railroad right-of-way on Hackberry for the following reasons:
 - This area already has a small slab and room to add their ideal slab of 160 feet by 60 feet.

- The restrooms would be approximately 300 yards from this area which would be close for them. There are sidewalks to get from this area to the restrooms and the skaters would probably enjoy skating back and forth.
- This area would also have room for bleachers for spectators for any planned skateboarding events.
- Accessibility: The Skatepark headquarters, which is currently at the Courthouse Square, would be closer to them. This location would also be closer to the skaters that live north and east of this location, which is where he was told most of them live.
- He reviewed some reasons for it not being a good idea at Campbell Park
 - Drainage concerns with the concrete Skatepark
 - Cultural and environmental reasons
 - Visibility
 - Hours of the park
 - Noise from Ajinimoto could be a problem to the skaters; the railroad right-of-way property is further away from that noise
 - Patrol and safety issues

Council member White expressed the following:

- Approximately four or five years ago, LAFTA had expressed interest in wanting to construct a pavilion in the center of the park. LAFTA has had a tent put up in that area when the Atlas 4000 held their last event in Lampasas. For that reason, the City moved electricity to the center of the park. It was never mentioned of the proposed pavilion being planned in another area.
- As for the noise from the wheels of the skateboards, it will never reach a decibel level issue.

LAFTA Board President Cabaniss understood that the electricity was put in the center only because of the vendors being in this area and for the bands that played at the events.

Mayor Talbert clarified the following:

- City Council and City of Lampasas views LAFTA as an asset to the community and very appreciative of all that LAFTA has done for the community and the park. LAFTA is a benefit to our entire community.
- Discussion has been that in the future, LAFTA wants a pavilion. The discussion today at this special meeting with today's Council members is the desire to facilitate the funding for both a Skatepark and a pavilion and undertake both projects very soon.
- The Skatepark is not an ancillary project of the Wings of Eagles group. This group has worked diligently and tirelessly for quite some time to raise funds toward a project of this kind. The City has found the means in which to contribute funding and provide a Skatepark for all the community is to include this group in the planning of future events that interns the City to utilize HOT funds for funding part of this project.
- As to the location of the Skatepark being convenient and close to current headquarters of Wings of Eagles, it is not the objective of the City or of Council of how close it is for them, the City wants a Skatepark for the community.
- Patrol and safety issues would not be an issue because of full confidence in the City's Police Department.
- Demographics should not be used as to where this Skatepark should go or who would utilize this Skatepark more based on where they live. This Skatepark will be for everybody from anywhere to use.

- Noise should not be an issue. Parks have noise from kids playing, a squealing child on a swing or just kids having fun. There is going to be noise.
- With the concern of drainage, a Skatepark can be in the flood plain.

Other discussion by LAFTA members:

- Mr. Cabaniss - The reason for not wanting a pavilion in the center of the park is because of the current placement of sculptures and how the sculptures can be viewed as an open and rolling vista view with no object in the way.
- Tina Matney - LAFTA was seeking a 7,000 square foot pavilion. Not necessarily all covered, but as much as possible. There is no place for anyone to rent a facility for an event and this could be an option. The reason for not wanting the pavilion in the center of the park was because when vendors and/or those that were to use the pavilion would want to unload their items, they would drive into the park which would destroy the park area.
- Tina Matney - There is two to three acres near the Ajinimoto plant for a Skatepark. Lisa Parker, Wings of Eagles President, spoke and expressed safety concerns with 18-wheelers, especially for the younger skaters.
- Janna Hammett – Suggested the 580 Sports Complex for a Skatepark or Turner Field. Discussion included: 580 Complex is too far for young skaters to get to and Turner Field does not have any room.
- Zac Morris – Spoke on alternate locations for the Skatepark.
- Jennifer Bunting – Concern of any impact to the Springs with the construction of the Skatepark and/or pavilion, or both. Should there be an evaluation or study be done?

Council member Clark said that there would be some requirements such as boring holes in the ground to find the depth of the water. The City certainly does not want to damage any of the springs.

Council member Toups spoke on concern of the railroad right-of-way property being unsafe with the high traffic count, especially from the school traffic.

James Hammett, citizen and local Attorney, spoke on possible legal and liability issues to the City by allowing a Skatepark to be built. He noted the following:

- Who would pay if someone were to get hurt at this Skatepark?
- Concern of monitor or patrol in this area if a Skatepark was built. With the other recreation in the current parks, there are lifeguards to patrol the pool and coaches/referees at the ball fields.
- After being asked by Council whether he was opposed to the idea of a Skatepark being constructed at any location or just opposed to a Skatepark being built at all. Mr. Hammett replied he was opposed to a Skatepark being built at Campbell Park.

Council discussion included:

- Skating at the Skatepark would be at your own risk. Same as any other recreational event in the City.
- Discussed a possible location where a pavilion could be contoured to fit an area that could be near the parking lot to allow for easy access and be close to the restrooms.
- In order to move forward with these projects, both LAFTA and Wings of Eagles need to willing to work together with Council on sound decisions for locations for both a Skatepark and pavilion.

Tina Matney, LAFTA member, spoke on behalf of LAFTA and said they were not expecting the City to want to build a pavilion and they are extremely grateful and are willing to work with both the City and Wings of Eagles on these proposed projects. She asked if Council could meet with both LAFTA members and Wings of Eagles to view the park area and decide on possible locations for both the projects.

City Staff would coordinate a date and time for Council to meet with representatives with both LAFTA and Wing of Eagles at Campbell Park.

VI. Adjourn into Executive Session

Council member Toups moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council of the City of Lampasas, Texas will meet in closed Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, as follows:

- Section 551.071 (1) (A) and 551.071(2), Consultation with Attorney by telephone and/or in person concerning matters upon which the attorney has a duty and/or responsibility to report to the governmental body; and/or other matters posted on the regular agenda.

VII. Adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Special Session

Executive session was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. and Special Session was immediately reconvened.

REGULAR SPECIAL SESSION (Special meeting)

VIII. Discussion and possible action concerning items posted and discussed by Council in Executive Session

There was no action taken.

IX. Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council member White and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Misti Talbert, Mayor

ATTEST:

Christina Marez, City Secretary