City Council City of Grand Saline

TOWN HALL MEETING

203 N. E. Pacific Street, Grand Saline, Tx 75140

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

at 6:30 P.M.

at the PAVILION located at 203 N.W. PACIFIC STREET, GRAND SALINE, TEXAS 75140

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Call to order
2. Invocation – Scott Snodgrass
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the US and Texas Flags
4. Welcome – First ever town hall meeting. Desire of city to be transparent, seek input, and be engaged.
5. Meet & Greet for Sonya Bishop & Julie Fisher – new management team for city
6. The floor open to citizens for untimed public comment.
    a. **Carolyn Riggs** – Collier Street. Appreciation expressed. DITCHES & CULVERTS are not maintained. Impacts property and road maintenance. Three homes on the street need MOWING, one belongs to Swepco. Pregnant cats dropping kittens or are mean.
        i. Mayor shared that an online complaint form is available online. Depts→Code Enforcement→Complaint
        ii. Milliorn shared concern that the complaint may not reach where it needs to go. Request take down street repair link until it gets resolved.
        iii. Milliorn shared an upgrade to the website is underway.
    b. **Cindy Jennings** – North Main Street. Has lived in GS 67 years. WATER has ruined countless loads of clothes. "We're working on it" is no long sufficient. This has been an ongoing issue her entire life. People can't cook, have to empty icemakers, can't bathe, etc. Called to see if lines were being worked on but Joel couldn't tell them. If he can't, then who can? Why not flush lines regularly so the water does not get brown in the first place? Notify the neighborhood in advance if there is an issue.
        i. Councilman Milliorn shared the aquifer is on an iron ore / manganese deposit. We have well water, where most towns use surface water. #1 well causes the most issues. Most issues arise in summer when it is hot. Exploring back flow or filtration system.

ii. Mayor Smith shared plumber recommended flushing hot water heater once a year. Still have cast iron pipes under the streets. Have a grant in the works. Need more wells to maintain. Wells cost approx. $3.2M
iii. Citizen Jennings said issues still occur when washed in cold water, so it is not a heat reaction issue.
iv. Councilman Gorby shared the issue seemed to get worse after a breakage on Main.
v. Citizen Jennings asked if the city could text the citizens and advise them when there was an issue. Discussion among council members regarding the capacity of the city to text and what communication options are available.
vi. Citizen Jennings shares that the product Iron Out is a terrible solution as it is extremely toxic and only works on white clothes. Will discolor any non-white item.
vii. Citizen Jennings requests a copy of the lead and copper survey/test that conducted. She also requests that families be reimbursed for ruined laundry.
viii. Councilwoman Greer asked if the city has ever mapped out to see what homes are on well #1. Jennings believes it is Main Street/Heddins Addition/ Hudgin Addition. References responses to her FB posts.
ix. May Smith - Water rate was increased so the city could qualify for grants because rates were so low state did not believe city was meeting their level of financial responsibility.
x. Councilman Snograss shared that water money has to fix water problems. Can't fix problems and lower rates.
xi. Sewer plant grant $750K. CBDG grant application in process for $3.2M

c. **James Fulton** – Does not live in Grand Saline.
WATER: Has Fruitvale water but they have the same issues. Is there a 1-3-5 year plan for the city of Grand Saline to address these issues? May shared grant for comprehensive plan – 10 year but will take 2 years to develop.
Fulton shared that it is not mud in the water, it is silt.
Can the city not just purchase water from Tyler? A pipeline will cost substantially more than well.
ROADS/STREETS: Are there plans for city growth? Are we growing or do move ins just offset death rate? Councilman Milliorn shared that the city has grown 120 people in the last 20+ years. Stagnant. Mayor Smith shared that the city is not prepared for growth.

VOLUNTEER SYSTEM: Recommends having a system for citizens to volunteer to help work and resolve these issues.

d. **Citizen 4** – Echoes comments of previous speakers. Summarizes that city should be preventative not reactionary.

7. Primary Concerns of Citizens – (1) Water, (2) Sewage, (3) Street Repair. Leave money for pot holes but concentrate on water and sewage first because repairs will just tear up any new roads.
8. Council Comments:
    a. Council Snodgrass – City working on transparency and communications. Informal poll – Need city app.
    b. Councilman Gorby shared that Fundview will send notifications out to tenants. (provided citizens have accurate/current information on file).
    c. Councilman Milliorn - Don't fill in complaint – go to city hall. City advised to log complains so they can be tracked.
    d. Councilwoman Greer – Need notification system to be a priority.
    e. Code compliance – down three employees due to training. Garza will return to regular schedule next week.
9. Adjournment
    a. Motion to Adjourn by Scott Gorby
    b. Second by Tommy Davis
    c. Meeting adjourned 7:58 p.m.

Julie Fisher

Julie Fisher
City Secretary, City of Grand Saline

CITY OF GRAND SALINE TEXAS

Kathy Smith

Kathy Smith
Mayor, City of Grand Saline