

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2008 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

A. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hamley at 6:35 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Russell Hamley
Council Member Ernie English
Council Member, Frances Wubbenhorst
Council Member Joyce Berube
Council Member Greg Holden
Council Member Jill Klein

City Manager, Mike Castro
City Attorney, Ken Wall
City Secretary, Lorri Coody

B. Discussion regarding the Texas Open Meetings Act, particularly recent developments.

City Attorney, Ken Wall began with an explanation of the recent Attorney General Opinion and the reasons which formed the basis of the opinion. He told the Council that basically the opinion states that Meeting Agendas must give notice as to the specifics for items that will reference "Comments." City Attorney Wall explained the source of the decision which was a Hays County case and as a result he told the Council that their agendas will need to be modified to accommodate this opinion as it relates to the items "Mayor Comments" and "Council Member Comments."

The City Attorney also explained that the Attorney General's Opinion stated that the Council's response to Citizens' Comments must be factual and if this is not possible the item must be placed on a future agenda.

Council engaged in discussion about the opinion. There were questions about the possibility of having of some "wobble room" in closing comments for example in welcoming a new employee without having an item. City Attorney Wall stated that there will not be an item for "Closing Comments" in the future without being more specific and without Council Members or the Mayor placing an item on the agenda before it is posted. Therefore, members will not be able to refer back to items that were on the agenda and discussed earlier in the evening. He did tell Council that if there is an item on the agenda wherein a new employee is being discussed, it would be appropriate for the Members of the Council to welcome him/her at that time.

Council Member Holden joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Discussion was had about the format of the City Manager's Report and if this section of the agenda met with the new requirements of the Attorney General's Opinion.

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City Attorney Wall stated there are no problems with this section of the agenda because the items listed are specific and detailed.

There was discussion about the Citizen Comment section of the agenda. City Attorney Wall told Council that questions posed by the public during these comments should not engage dialogue other than factual information and if more dialogue and interchange is necessary, an item should be placed on a future agenda to discuss the item more freely and with proper notice if this is Councils' desire.

In light of these discussions, Mayor Hamley stated that Council would be proactive in making sure to contact the City Secretary the Thursday before Council Meetings in order to place specific comment items on the agenda. He stated that Council would not expect reminder calls to schedule these items on the agenda.

C. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary