

CITY OF OVILLA MINUTES
Friday, September 03, 2021
Special City Council Meeting
105 S. Cockrell Hill Road, Ovilla, TX 75154

Mayor Dormier called the Council Meeting of the Ovilla City Council to order at 4:05 PM, in the Ovilla Council Chamber room, 105 S. Cockrell Hill Road, Ovilla, TX 75154, with notice of the meeting duly posted.

The following City Council Members were present:

Rachel Huber	Council Member, Place 1
Dean Oberg	Council Member, Place 2
David Griffin	Council Member, Place 3
Doug Hunt	Mayor Pro Tem, Place 4
Michael Myers	Council Member, Place 5

Mayor Dormier noted the participating Council Members, thus constituting a quorum. City manager, city secretary, and directors were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

Invocation – *led by PL2 Dean Oberg.*

US. Pledge of Allegiance and TX Pledge – *led by PL5 Mike Myers.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. DISCUSSION/ACTION – Consideration of and action on whether to move forward with the 2021 Heritage Day scheduled event due to changing conditions with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as receiving updates on all activities related to the celebration, Saturday, September 25th.

Mayor Dormier called a special meeting to discuss the Heritage Day event. Recent changes to the Covid-19 pandemic had caused concern for some employees fearful to work in crowds. Additionally, Council wished to be mindful of the health and safety of all residents and visitors coming to Ovilla.

Place 4 Doug Hunt shared a brief overview of the most recent progress of Heritage Day plans to date. Booth rentals were down but as Place 4 Hunt explained that oftentimes rental activity increases the last few weeks prior to the event – as does the parade participation. Currently there were only three entries committed to enter into the parade. The entertainment was already under contract so that would be a reimbursement or loss of money as would many booth rentals and other pledged or already donated monies if Council were to decide to cancel the event.

Both Chief Bennett and Chief Kennedy were asked to share their comments or concerns with the current situation and having the event. Chief Bennett advised that his officers would be at post for the parade, but he could not in good faith expect them to engage in the daily activities of the event.

Chief Bennett also advised he would be the only attending police employee at the booth area. Chief Kennedy provided the latest situation report showing numbers of the Covid variant on the rise and the overcrowding of the hospitals again. His recommendation was to either cancel or as the least postpone the event until Covid numbers declined.

The city manager as well as all directors and Council acknowledged the hard work and dedication Place 4 Hunt and police administrative assistant, Emily Starkey had put into the planning for this annual event, however, agreed with both chiefs. The city manager advised Council that she could not mandate employees to work this special event if they feared they were not safe or unable maintain a social distance. It would have to be voluntary to work. As much as staff would love to proceed with this annual event, at this time being able to provide essential services to the city were more important. Because the city is small, one positive case could jeopardize an entire department as we have seen and had to work through on multiple occasions.

Public Works Director Kuykendall advised that his department would be available if Council chose to move forward with the September 25th event, although with some concern and reservation.

Mayor Dormier suggested that maybe a spring event would be possible if Covid numbers were down. The consensus of the Council was agreeable.

Place 2 Dean Oberg moved to cancel the September 25 Heritage Day event, seconded by Place 4 Hunt.

No oppositions, no abstentions.

VOTE: The motion to cancel the September 25, 2021, Heritage Day event carried unanimously: 5-0.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL AND STAFF

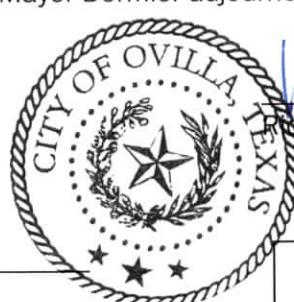
1. Mayor Dormier	Watch for future hosting of this event in the spring.
2. PL1 Huber	None
3. PL2 Oberg	None
4. PL3 Griffin	Consider combined special event with Christmas Tree Lighting.
5. PL4 Hunt	Watch for Covid numbers to decline to reschedule.
6. PL5 Myers	None
7. City Manager	None

ADJOURNMENT

PL2 Oberg moved to adjourn the special meeting of September 03, 2021, seconded by PL1 Huber. There being no further business, Mayor Dormier adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

G Miller, City Secretary



[Signature]
Richard Dormier, Mayor

Approved September 13, 2021