

Minutes

January 13th 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.
Special City Council Meeting / Workshop
Oran White Civic Center
701 N Tool Drive
Tool, TX 75143



1. Call to Order @ 10:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Bennett, Dumont, Figueroa, Fladmark, Sayre, Stykes. All Present. Quorum was established with Mayor Dumont Presiding.

Appointments, Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions

3. Receive presentation from McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C. Attorneys at Law (MVBA) regarding the collection of Delinquent Property Taxes throughout the City of Tool. Staci Gold of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C. Attorneys at Law (MVBA) reported that from August 4th, 2024 – December 31st, 2024 they had collected \$22,137.69 in delinquent property taxes. Gold continued by stating that there is still an outstanding amount of \$79,630.94 in delinquent property taxes that the group is trying to collect. Councilmember Bennett requested additional information regarding deferral on liens for property owners over the age of 65 years old and property abatements. Councilmember Fladmark inquired what the City Council could do in assisting in the collection of delinquent property taxes to which Gold stated that the City Council could assist by keeping the firm updated on deceased individuals over the age of 65 years old. Gold concluded by stating that by helping keeping informed of the deceased, it would expedite the collection process of delinquent property taxes.
4. **Citizen Comments:** Citizens wishing to speak on an agenda item must sign up to do so (**3 Minute Maximum**)

- David Moses signed up to speak on Item Eight but declined to speak at the time of the item

Statutory Agenda - *The purpose of this section is to have full discussion upon request by the Tool City Council. Ideas, thoughts and decisions are formulated by City Council and staff plans, operations, policies, and/or future projects, including the following:*

Mayor Dumont moved to discuss Item Six next and chose to discuss Item Five after Item Eight

5. General Discussion on future project needs in the City of Tool, presented by Mayor Dumont
 - Removal of old fire station
 - Police Station Remodel
 - Building of new Maintenance Barn
6. Receive presentation and updated plan from David Moses regarding the Eight at Tool Ribbon Cutting event on April 26th, 2025. Events Committee Chair David Moses presented his plan for a ribbon cutting ceremony and a grand opening celebration for the Eight at Tool Park. Moses continued by stating that depending on the availability of funding would determine the size of the event. Moses continued by stating that if the city chose to have just a ribbon cutting, the cost for that event alone would use the entire \$5,000.00 events budget, for the Park's Division, for the year. Moses continued by presenting the following funding options:
 - The City Council to allocate \$8,000.00 of the estimated 2024-2025 surplus of Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds to the Park Event budget making the total Park Events Budget to

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\$13,000.00. This option would allow for funding for the Ribbon Cutting Celebration, Grand Opening Celebration and Legacy Events through September 30th, 2025.

- The City Council to allocate the 2024-2025 budgeted amount of Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds of \$36,000.00 to be transferred to the Park Events Budget for a total of \$41,000.00 in the Park Events Budget. This option would allow for funding for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Grand Opening Celebration, Legacy Events and other proposed events through September 30th, 2025.

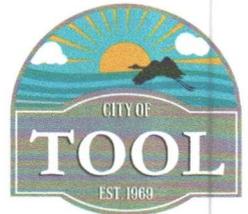
Councilmember Sayre inquired if there was a contingency date for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony / Grand Opening Celebration to which Events Committee Chair David Moses stated that there was not a contingency date set currently, but one could be selected. Mayor Dumont inquired on the length of the event to which Moses stated that the event would potentially be an all-day event. Mayor Dumont inquired if alcohol would be allowed in the park to which Councilmember Sayre stated that the Ribbon Cutting Celebration and Grand Opening Celebration should not include alcohol. Councilmember Figueroa stated that he would like to allocate \$40,000.00 to the Park Events Committee this year for events in the park.

Mayor Dumont allowed discussion of Item Seven and Item Eight During this item.

Councilmember Bennett stated that in regard to the direction of the future of the Eight at Tool, a 501(c)(3) corporation, she would like to see it turned over to a citizen led group. Councilmember Bennett continued by stating that during a previous conversation, City Administrator Julius Kizzee discussed the potential of dissolving the Eight at Tool 501(c)(3) corporation. Councilmember Figueroa inquired what the logic was behind dissolving the 501(c)(3) corporation to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that from an auditor's standpoint, the auditors do not like for a 501(c)(3) corporation being ran through a city. City Administrator Kizzee continued by stating that a 501(c)(3) corporation was not needed to run a city park. Mayor Dumont stated that there would be phase two of the park and that a 501(c)(3) corporation would be needed for donations and grants. City Administrator Kizzee stated that once the park is completed the City of Tool would be responsible for maintaining the Eight at Tool Park not the Eight at Tool, 501(c)(3) corporation. Councilmember Bennett stated that the city would still host events in the park, but a citizen-led group could have fundraisers for the park. Councilmember Bennett concluded by stating that the city does not have enough staff for events of that magnitude. Councilmember Figueroa stated that money needed to be allocated for events and that people coming out monthly to the park would continue the growth of the park. Councilmember Figueroa concluded by stating that if a group has funding for events, more volunteers will want to join the Events Committee. Councilmember Sayre inquired about additional employees for park maintenance to which Director of Maintenance and Operations Frank Martin stated that interviews would start at the end of the month. Councilmember Figueroa stated the Eight at Tool was under the City and the Eight at Tool would raise funds yearly for the purpose of hosting events at the park. Councilmember Fladmark stated that he felt that the Eight at Tool, a 501(c)(3) corporation should continue for future donations. Councilmember Figueroa inquired why the auditors viewed the 501(c)(3) corporation as a bad thing to which City Administrator Kizzee stated that it was very uncommon for a 501(c)(3)

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corporation to run a city park and that he had not found another city, who runs their city park through a 501(c)(3) corporation. Councilmember Stykes stated that since the park was not complete, the corporation should not be dissolved. Councilmember Fladmark stated that any change in the events budget would require a budget amendment. Councilmember Figueroa stated that the City Council should increase the events budget to make the Ribbon Cutting Celebration and Grand Opening Celebration a big deal. Councilmember Bennett inquired if \$7,500.00 would cover the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand opening Celebration to which Events Committee Chair David Moses stated that the maximum cost needed would be \$13,000.00 maximum to do the Ribbon Cutting Celebration, and Legacy Events. Councilmember Figueroa stated that \$30,000.00 needed to be allocated for the park events budget to ensure large events at the park. Councilmember Sayre asked City Clerk Alicia Keith her opinion on planning events for the city going forward, since that is a part of her job description. City Clerk Keith stated that attendance at previous events had been very successful given the space restrictions at City Hall. City Clerk Keith continued by stating that she was confident in her event planning capabilities and by having a significantly larger space for events, she could grow future events. City Clerk Keith continued by stating that she has created several new events since moving into her position as City Clerk. Councilmember Figueroa stated that if City Clerk Keith's position were to be expanded to planning events for the park, she would need additional people to assist her. City Administrator Kizzee stated that City Clerk Keith was more than capable handling events but not every event would bring people from all around the lake to Tool.

7. Allocate Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for the Eight at Tool Ribbon Cutting event on April 26th, 2025. Mayor Dumont allowed the discussion of Item Seven to be had during Item Six.

Motion to Allocate \$13,000.00 to the Eight at Tool Events Committee for the Ribbon Cutting on April 26th, 2025, with a contingency not to exceed \$15,000.00 was made by Councilmember Sayre with second by Councilmember Stykes. Motion Passes 5/0.

8. General Discussion on the future of the Eight at Tool, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Mayor Dumont allowed discussion of Item Eight during Item Six.
9. **Council Comments** - *Hear announcements concerning matters appearing on the agenda; items of community interest; and/or inquiries of staff regarding specific factual information or existing policy from the Mayor, Councilpersons, and City staff, for which no formal action will be discussed or taken.*
 - A. Councilmember Fladmark thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their participation in the meeting.
 - B. Councilmember Sayre thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Director of Maintenance and Operations Martin and his team for all of their hard work in the park.
 - C. Councilmember Bennett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting
 - D. Councilmember Figueroa stated that this two-hour meeting was a complete waste of time and that this meeting was supposed to be about deciding the future of the park. Councilmember Figueroa concluded by stating that he was baffled with the activity level in City Hall and that he was pretty frustrated and wanted to meet offline with City Administrator Kizzee after the meeting.

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E. Councilmember Stykes thanked everyone for coming to the meeting

10. **Staff Comments** - *Hear announcements concerning matters appearing on the agenda; items of community interest; Staff gives regards dealing with specific factual information or existing policy dealing within the City, that may have an impact on citizens, staff or the City Council of Tool. No formal action will be discussed or taken.*

- A. City Controller Kimberly Kroha discussed the recent park reimbursement submittals to Texas Parks and Wildlife
- B. Director of Maintenance and Operations Martin discussed the upcoming interviews for a park laborer later this month.

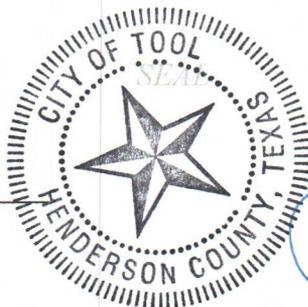
11. **Closing**

- A. Next Meeting: January 16th, 2025
- B. Adjourn @ 11:55 A.M.

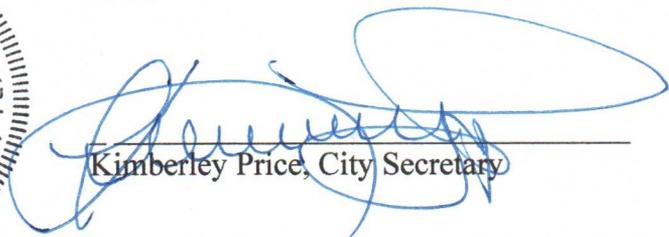
A meeting that is “open to the public”, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, is one that the public is permitted to attend. The act does not entitle the public to choose the items to be discussed or to speak about items on the agenda. If the City Council, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, should determine that an executive session is required, then such executive session, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Section 551.001 et seq., will be held by the Council at the date, hour and place given in this notice, concerning but not limited to the following sections and purposes of the Act: 551.071 Private consultation with the city’s attorney; 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property; or, 551.074 Discussing personnel or to hear complaints against personnel. Should any final action, final decision or final vote be required in the opinion of the City Council regarding any matter considered in such executive session, then the final action, final decision or final vote shall be in the open meeting covered by this Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting.

I certify that the above notice of meeting, a true and correct copy, was posted on the bulletin board in front of Tool City Hall prior to the required 72 hours and that the city’s official newspaper was notified.


Mike Dumont, Mayor



Attest:


Kimberley Price, City Secretary