

**City Council Meeting
February 3, 2025
6:30PM, Temple Senior Center
Minutes**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Johnson at 6:30PM.
Council Members Present: Alexis Boles, Hiley Miller, Casey Russom, Howard Walden
Council Members Absent: Richard Bracknell

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Michael Johnson

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Agenda, as presented: There was a motion by Council Member Russom to approve the agenda as published, second by Council Member Boles. Vote 4-0.

Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2025 City Council Meeting:

There was a motion by Council Member Russom to approve the January 13, 2025 minutes, second by Council Member Walden. Vote 4-0.

Announcements:

City Administrator Lisa Jacobson explained that there will be two more public hearings on HB581. They will take place at the Senior Center on February 10th at 2:00pm and February 17th at 4:00PM. The first public hearing took place prior to tonight's Council meeting.

Consent

Council Member Miller originally made a motion to approve the consent agenda, but it was determined by the City Attorney, Carey Pilgrim, that there needed to be a public hearing first regarding item #5 adopting an ordinance which changes the DCD setbacks. It was explained that with the ordinance, DCD setbacks would meet the minimum requirements of the current R-1 standards.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. Council Member Walden wanted to make it clear that this would be for any new DCD zoning going forward. City Attorney Pilgrim confirmed that this is correct and it would not affect anyone with vested rights. There was no one else present to speak for or against this item. The public hearing was closed.

There was a motion by Council Member Miller to approve the consent agenda (items 1-5 below), and to clarify that in item #5, the DCD setbacks must have a minimum of R-1 standards applicable to anything going forward after this date; this requirement can not affect anyone who has vested rights, second by Council Member Boles. Vote 4-0.

1. Adopt the job position of School Resource Officer at Pay Grade 22, within the Police Department, with half of the salary and benefits to be paid by the Carroll County School System and the other half of the salary and benefits by the City of Temple.
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Temple Police Department and the Carroll County School System concerning the law enforcement in schools program.
3. Authorize the Mayor to sign the contract between the City of Temple Recreation Department and Majesty Dance to continue to provide programming services.
4. Adopt a resolution to provide GDOT with a letter of concurrence to reroute Highway 113 north of Hwy 78, to turn east onto Hwy 78 at the corner of 113/78, and then turn northwest onto SR-274 and cross over the flat railroad crossing onto West Johnson Street, essentially removing Carrollton Street as part of Highway 113 to the north of Hwy 78. This would not limit regular residential traffic on Carrollton Street but would eliminate Highway 113 traffic going through the city of Temple on Carrollton Street.
5. Adopt an Ordinance changing the DCD setbacks.

Old Business

1. (Tabled 12/02/2024) Receive information on the fiscal year 2023 trial balance with council discussion followed by council action to approve an Ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2025 Fiscal Year General Fund Operating Budget

Financial Consultant Scott Akins distributed copies of the trial balance to the elected officials. He explained that CPA Will Robinson started the audit on the 21st. The trial balance has been provided to them. He explained that Will Robinson will start work at City Hall next week. Mr. Akins is working with Regina on 2024 bank reconciliations. His goal is to have them completed by the next Council meeting.

Council Member Walden stated that he wanted to know how much we were over or under budget for 2023; he would like to know where we stand at the end of that year. Mr. Akins said he thought that we were slightly over budget. Mr. Walden explained he would like the actual figures and that information is needed before we can adopt the budget. He thought the reason why this has been tabled for two months is because we were waiting for that information. Mr. Akins said that he would get those figures together and email them out to everyone.

It was decided that items one and two would need to be tabled until the council is provided with additional budget information regarding the fund balance, and how much we are over or under.

There was a motion by Council Member Miller to table to approval of the budget ordinances to Monday, February 10th at 5:00PM when there will be a Special Called meeting, second by Council Member Russom. Vote 4-0.

2. (Tabled 12/02/2024) Approve an Ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2025 Fiscal Year Water Fund Operating Budget.

New Business

1. Public Hearing followed by council action on the Variance Request presented by Alex Vautin with Southeast Civil Group to eliminate the five-year sunset clause on the Special Use Permit on 100 E. Luke Road/Mad Properties, Parcel T04 0060712, as presented to the Planning Commission on January 21 with their recommendation to council to approve (A5-0).

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. The applicants, Alex Vautin and his dad Dave Vautin were present at the meeting. Dave Vautin explained that a few years back when they considered purchasing this lot, it was the concrete plant for I-20. They requested a special use permit with a few promises. They kept this as a monthly parking lot to serve local clientele and to avoid transients. They have kept the area safe and traffic free; it keeps trucks off of the downtown roads. The Council consented to this request with a five year sunset clause. There was originally concerns for the atmosphere and the potential for crime, but Temple Police Department has confirmed there has been zero crime at this location. The lot has gate code access, camera surveillance, it's well lit, quiet, safe and provides a much needed service.

Alex Vautin stated that he lives in Temple and he is proud of the City. This business is for local residents; there is no overnight parking. In the 2.5 years that they have been at this location they have not had an issues or crime which was confirmed by Temple Police Department. The sunset clause was put in place to give them the opportunity to prove what they are doing. He stated it's a clean site with fencing, landscaping etc. When asked by Council Member Russom what the rush was to lift the clause, Mr. Vautin stated they are trying to plan ahead. They don't want to reach the end of the permit and then try to find out what to do. They want to be aware of the trajectory and what they need to do to keep the business running without interruption.

Council Member Russom stated that he has driven by several times and the fencing is loose. He has also heard complaints from residents in the area that the lights are too bright. He stated that is one of the things they originally asked for was for the lighting to not impact the residents. Council Member Miller stated that safety wasn't their only concern, this business was meant to be temporary. We didn't know the standards for this type of business, and we need some standards put in place. Council Member Walden stated that

when it was approved they painted a rosy picture of how this would look, but now the silk fencing is almost non-existent on East Luke and on 113, the landscaping was just recently down, and there is a really bad wash out on the first drive that needs to be corrected before it gets worse.

The applicants recognize that the screening has been an issue and they have tried to correct the issue at least three times. They have someone scheduled to come out this week and look at it again. The landscaping was done right out of the gate; trees were installed on the highway and person additional landscaping has been added in the last four months. They pay a landscape monthly and are making a conscious effort to improve the fencing. When asked, they confirmed that they are still open to selling the property, but they haven't had any recent interest. They think this is because the area surrounding this location is light industrial. By not having a building and with it being a level lot, this is keeping the property developer friendly.

Council Member Walden stated we would have our Development Inspector out to look at the driveway and he can make recommendations on what needs to be done. There was no one else present at the meeting to speak for or against this request. The public hearing was closed.

2. Take action on the request by Alex Vautin, Southeast Civil Group, to eliminate the five-year sunset clause on the Special Use Permit for Mad Properties located at 100 E. Luke Road. There was a motion by Council Member Miller to table this item until the March 3rd Council meeting and to discuss it further at the next Committees meeting, second by Council Member Russom. Vote 4-0.
3. Select the bank(s), terms, and rate for the upcoming renewal/transfer of CDs as they mature or authorize the City Administrator along with Finance to choose the best rates, as they change daily. There was a motion by Council Member Miller to authorize the City Administrator, along with Finance to choose the best rate with a maximum three year term, since the rates change frequently, second by Council Member Boles. Vote 4-0.
4. Review of bids received on the Public Works Building Request For Proposals (RFP) with possible action to select a company and award the bid for engineering and construction. Mayor Johnson explained that Public Works Director Josh Smith was not able to be at the meeting tonight due to an emergency and he recommended tabling this item until the next meeting. There was a motion by Council Member Russom to table this item until the Special Called meeting which will take place on February 10th at 5:00PM, second by Council Member Walden. Vote 4-0.

Closing Comments by Mayor and Council

Howard Walden- He said that it has been brought to his attention that GFL never picked up all of the trash cans with green lids, even though some of them are overflowing. They are only picking up trash trash cans with the black lids. He said they were doing much better before the contract was renewed. City Administrator Lisa Jacobson explained that a meeting is scheduled next week with GFL to discuss this and other issues we have been having with them.

Casey Russom- asked where we were with the sidewalk project. City Administrator Lisa Jacobson said the RFQ has been put together and the company is waiting for some information from their sub contractor; this has been given to the GDOT representative. We are currently in a holding pattern.

Executive Session, if needed N/A

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn by Council Member Russom, second by Council Member Miller. Vote 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Mayor

City Clerk