



WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 18, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY AUDITORIUM IN THE RUHMAN C. FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
303 W. MAIN ST., KENEDY, TX 78119

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Joe Baker
Cindy Saenz, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 1
Johnny Rodriguez, District 2
Christopher Parker, District 3
James Douglas, District 4
Saundra Schultz, District 5

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CITY PRESENT:

City Manager William Linn
City Secretary Ruby Beaven
Police Chief Richard Ashe
City Attorney Alessandra Gad

CITY ABSENT:

1. Call Workshop to order.

The Workshop City Council Meeting of the City of Kenedy was called to order by Mayor Baker at 6:51 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021, in the City Auditorium in the Ruhman C. Franklin Municipal Building, 303 W. Main St. Kenedy, TX.

2. Call Roll and establish a quorum is present.

With Council Members present a quorum was established.

3. Open workshop for the purpose of discussing the maintenance agreement between the San Antonio River Authority and the City of Kenedy pertaining to Escondido Park and discussion regarding conveyance of the City owned acreage residing withing Escondido Park, to the San Antonio River Authority.

Shelby Dupnik, Commissioner Karnes County, of 125 Bluebonnet Dr, Kenedy, TX addressed the Council and expressed his support for the San Antonio River Authority having total control of Escondido Park. Dupnik spoke about the flood zone, professional maintenance, and costly maintenance expenses.

City Manager Linn addressed the Council and spoke about the eight (8) acres owned by the City and the twelve (12) acres owned by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and the agreement in place because of the dual ownership. Linn stated that SARA does a good job with the upkeep. Linn questioned if we really needed the agreement and stated the city

provided \$2 million and sees no reason why the City cannot do what the City Attorney suggested.

Derek Boese, SARA General Manager, addressed the Council and stated he does not agree with the City Attorney's property outline of property owned. Boese stated SARA was there to discuss how the City can convey the property. He stated one issue is police/security that SARA does not provide.

Allison Elder, SARA Director of Legal Services, addressed the Council and discussed the ownership of seven (7) parcels of land, as outlined in the Escondido Creek Park Leases map provided by SARA. Elder stated the maintenance agreement is standard and is just for assurance to provide clarity to all parties. Elder stated the city limits was moved to have the park included to provide police/security.

City Manager Linn addressed the Council and spoke about the 19.81 acres of land that Allison Elder spoke about in the map and the conflict with documentation of ownership. City Manager held a discussion with the City Attorney about the land and conflict.

Discussion held among City Manager Linn, City Attorney Gad, and Allison Elder about annexation and disconnect of ownership.

Councilman Douglas expressed his support for the San Antonion River Authority (SARA) having total control of Escondido Park. Douglas stated if the conveyance of land should occur and SARA not want the park at anytime in the future that the park land should be returned to the City of Kenedy.

Discussion held among Councilwoman Schultz and Gaylon Oehlke, SARA Karnes County Executive Vice Chair, about annual maintenance and operating expenses, future increases, and employee staffing.

Councilwoman Schultz expressed her support for the San Antonion River Authority (SARA) having total control of Escondido Park. Schultz stated if SARA had full control that would take expenses off the city budget.

Councilman Parker expressed his support for the San Antonion River Authority (SARA) having total control of Escondido Park. Parker stated the city would keep up with the park but this should be with SARA.

Councilwoman Saenz expressed her support for the San Antonion River Authority (SARA) having total control of Escondido Park. Saenz inquired since the workshop was for the transfer of ownership, could land conveyance now be transferred.

Councilman Rodriguez stated this should be on the next agenda to place a vote.

City Manager Linn stated if council agrees to transfer then the only concern is to keep it in city limits.

Kristen Hansen, Senior Manager of Watershed and Parks Operations, addressed the Council and discussed the memorandum of understanding.

Gaylon Oehlke, SARA Karnes County Executive Vice Chair, addressed the Council and stated there is a wonderful partnership with the city and the San Antonio River Authority. The park is owned by a lot of citizens who donated. Oehlke stated he was representing the community and wanted the best path forward. Oehlke stated ownership is not the same as a lease. Oehlke went on to state we have strong feelings about this.

Discussion held among Mayor Baker and City Attorney Gad about the next step to proceed.

City Attorney stated under exception no election necessary. City should go through process for public hearing for transparency for conveyance of land.

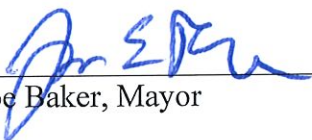
Mayor Baker requested this item be placed on a future agenda.

4. **Close Workshop.**

5. **Adjourn.**

Mayor Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED:



Joe Baker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ruby Beaven, City Secretary