



City of League City, TX

300 West Walker
League City TX 77573

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

5:00 PM

Council Chambers
200 West Walker Street

Council Work Session

The City Council of the City of League City, Texas, met in a work session in Council Chambers at 200 West Walker Street on the above date at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor:

Pat Hallisey

City Council Members:

**Andy Mann
Hank Dugie
Larry Millican
Todd Kinsey
Greg Gripon
Chad Tressler
Nick Long**

City Manager:

John Baumgartner

Assistant City Manager

Bo Bass

Assistant City Manager

Michael Kramm

City Attorney:

Nghiem Doan

City Secretary:

Diana M. Stapp

Chief of Police:

Gary Ratliff

Executive Director of Development Services

David Hoover

Director of Budget/Project Management

Angie Steelman

Director of Engineering:

Christopher Sims

Director of Finance:

Kristine Polian

Director of Human Resources/Civil Service:

Janet Shirley

Director of Parks & Cultural Services:

Chien Wei

Director of Public Works:

Jody Hooks

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor Pro Tem Kinsey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and called the roll. All members of Council were present except Mayor Pat Hallisey. Mr. Millican attended via videoconference call.

Absent 1 - Mayor Pat Hallisey

Present 7 - Mr. Andy Mann, Mr. Hank Dugie, Mr. Larry Millican, Mr. Todd Kinsey, Mr. Greg Gripon, Mr. Chad Tressler and Mr. Nick Long

2. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CREATION OF A CITY ART AND BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM TO CREATE “PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITIES” WITHIN LEAGUE CITY**

Sarah Greer-Osborne, Direction of Communications gave a presentation.

How do we use public art and beautification strategies to create a “sense of place” for residents and visitors to League City?

In May 2020, over 800 residents responded to an online survey asking a variety of “sense of place” and identity questions related to League City including:

How would you describe League City to someone who has never been here before?

VISITOR AND OUTSIDE PERCEPTION OF LEAGUE CITY

Since launching the League City Hidden Gems Geocache tour on October 1, over 500 people have visited one or more cache locations in League City. Visitors from Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas have checked-in on the Geocache app and many have shared their comments.⁶

What is League City famous for? League City is the first largest boating anchorage in the United States and it was all recognized as the top ten smartest cities in Texas and also among 99 other small cities within the United States that have a population of 50,000-99,000.

What comes up when you search Google and Trip Advisor?

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING – uses art as a tool to improve and beautify public spaces

Create or improve the identity of a location by reflecting its unique history, character, and culture.

Improve the location for the people who live there and create a sense of civic pride.

Support economic growth and tourism to location/area.

And make people happy.

PLACEMAKING PROJECTS CAN INCLUDE:

Sculpture and Monuments

Permanent or temporary

Gateway Art

Underpasses, arches, entry way signs

Park and Trail Enhancements

Trail art, creative trash cans and benches

Gathering Spaces

Sculpture garden, outdoor museum

Large Murals

On city and public buildings and businesses

Mini-murals on utility cabinets

MINI MURALS ON TRAFFIC LIGHT CABINETS

- **Researched models for programs in peer city municipalities in Texas as well as Houston-Galveston area to determine strategies and best practices.**
- **Some cities use painted murals only, vinyl wraps only, or a combination of both.**

Sugarland (vinyl wraps)

Angleton (vinyl wraps)

Grand Prairie (paint and wraps)

Flower Mound (paint and wraps)

Houston (paint only)

PAINT VS VINYL

Paint: lasts the life of the utility box, which is 10 years. Graffiti proof coating applied after is complete. Painting provides for more PR opportunities and for video and photography coverage by local media. Can take three to four days of work for artist to complete.

Created by a single artist who is commissioned and paid for the original work. Special primer applied to box beforehand by artist and special paint used so the mural does not fade.

Vinyl Wrap: Lasts on average 3-5 years because of fading from sunlight. Can be reprinted and reapplied when wrap deteriorates, or when box receives graffiti or needs to be replaced. Artwork for wrap submitted by artist as a graphic file and must meet specific size and dimension requirements. City hires and oversees contractor that is paid to print and install vinyl. Box or boxes can be wrapped and completed in one day. Vinyl can increase temperature of internal components inside box by 10 degrees.

COST COMPARISON

Paint – Approx. \$3,000 per mural

Includes artist fee to prep, prime, paint, and graffiti-proof coat the cabinet

*** Based on quote from UpArts Studio, a non-profit arts group which oversaw the painting of 200+ murals on traffic boxes in Houston.**

Vinyl Wrap – approx. \$2,000 to 2,750. Per mural, artist fee \$500-750, vendor fee \$1500-2000

Based on costs estimates from Sugarland and Angleton who use a Houston based wrap company.

How is it paid for: Hot Tax Dollars, Part of Public Works annual budget, part of Parks annual budget, Grants, Corporate and Business sponsorship, EDC funds, Percentage set aside of City's annual CIP budget.

WHO CREATES THE ARTWORK?

Commissioned Artist: Artists sign contract and must complete mural by a certain time period. Artist can be provided specific image to create, a theme or topic, or can be given free range. Artist is responsible for entire project from conception to completion but will need a city staff member to report to. Artist can submit pre-renderings until a final design is agreed upon, may be difficult to find professional artists that live in city or surrounding area.

Competition/Open Call: Artists can be members of the community, students, retirees, local artists, professional artists, and designers. Requires some sort of decision-making committee to select “winners.” Requires dedicated city staff member to oversee competition, selection of winners, and fabrication and installation of each wrap. Works best when you limit submission to within 50-75 miles radius of city. Works best when a specific theme or topic is provided.

BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED:

Do not go with painted boxes when allowing for open call/competition. (Grand Prairie is still waiting for 2018 winner to finish painting their mural and city had to buy the correct products and provide for the artist to use.)

Get creative with funding – use dollars set aside for water conservation efforts (mural can have an environmental theme) or library funds (murals can have a literacy theme).

If going the open call/competition route, a city staff member must oversee the project and it will be the bulk of their job duties. They will not have time for other projects and assignments. Most cities have a parks employee overseeing the project.

Make sure the artist signs a professional services contract that outlines timeline, budget, cost overruns, deliverables, insurance, liability, equipment, and supplies.

Determine who owns the copyright to the murals, images to the murals or associated material. What are the terms for the reproduction of the image of the mural? May the image be used for commercial purposes?

NEXT STEPS:

Use HOT funds (allocated specifically for public murals) to launch a mini-mural project that will include FIVE murals to be painted by commissioned local artists in the spring/summer of 2021 on newly installed traffic signal boxes at one of two designed areas:

FM518/Mainstreet area designated for TXDOT

Hike and bike trails along the west side of the town near Countryside and Rustic Oaks Parks which will be receiving wayfinding trail signs in early summer 2021. The trail system has been tentatively named the “Feathered Friends Trail” and all trails will be named after birds. The murals on the traffic signal boxes can feature birds.

Employ the services of Up Art Studio for a fee of \$20,000 to:

Handle all project management including selection, contract negotiations and payment of artist as well as the preparation, priming, of the murals in 2021

Set up program guidelines and process for Phase II of mini-mural project which will include a competition/open program soliciting designs for WRAPS with following timeline: open-call in fall of 2021, winner picked in spring 2022, and mural wraps installed in summer of 2022 for celebration of the City’s 60th anniversary.

Create a dedicated roster of League City area artists who can work on other City public art projects in the future.

Rename the City’s Clean and Green committee the “Keep League City Beautiful” committee and expand its realm of work to include public art.

Recruit committee members who are professional artists, current and former art teachers for CCISD, and patrons/supporters of the arts in the Bay Area and Greater Houston Area. Have them select winners of the mini-mural competition in fall 2021.

Employ the Professional Services of Up Art Studio to conduct a Placemaking Opportunity Analysis for League City using FY2021 HOT funds or funds allocated to Clean and Green Committee in FY 2021 Budget (Approximate cost \$9,000)

Collaborate with Traffic Department.

Locations of boxes that are recently installed or will be replaced in 2021 and 2022.

Incorporating costs of “wraps” into budget for FY 2022 for scheduled cabinet replacement.

Explore use of vendor program that installs wraps on Econolite traffic cabinet products.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:35 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Kinsey said there being no further business, this meeting is adjourned.

PAT HALLISEY
MAYOR

DIANA M. STAPP
CITY SECRETARY

(SEAL)

MINUTES APPROVED: January 12, 2021