

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM CITY OF CUERO COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2022

CUERO, TX - City Of Cuero's October City Council Meeting was held October 10 in Cuero City Council Chambers and the following are the highlights from the meeting. For more information, as well as upcoming agendas, minutes from previous meetings and more, visit www.cityofcuero.com. A short recap video of each city council meeting can be found on the website, as well as their social media channels.



The meeting opened with a proclamation reading by Mayor Sara Post Meyer for Fire Prevention Week October 9th - 15th. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week with the theme "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape" Lt. Juan Solis and DJ Truman, both with Cuero Fire Department, were present as the mayor read the proclamation.

Cheryl Merzbacher, Environmental Supervisor with the City of Cuero, was recognized for receiving the George Troell Person of the Year Award from the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission for her dedicated service to the Golden Crescent region.

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Cheryl Merzbacher, Environmental Supervisor with the City of Cuero, was recognized for improving recycling efforts in Cuero and taking care of the environment.

Cuero has been certified as a "Better Cities for Pets" and it was noted that Cuero's commitment to pets and pet owners stands out. Cuero was recognized for looking for ways to further advance the pet-friendliness of Cuero. Mayor Meyer shared that this will assist with grants for future pet programs and pet adoptions. Highlights from the survey included high marks for Cuero's warm, welcoming pet shelters and pet amenities such as water stations in various locations.

Council reviewed a request from Amherst to close off a street in order to make an employee parking lot. James Crain, City of Cuero attorney, recommended an emergency ordinance and Councilman Tony Allen made a motion to request closing streets temporarily for a parking area gate. Mr. Crain will bring the ordinance to the next meeting and it was passed unanimously.

Council listened to a proposed rate increase from Texas Disposal Systems. Raymie Zella, City Manager, read a portion of the letter from the organization explaining the reasoning behind the increase. Areas cited were fuel costs and materials, as well as increases in labor, training and recruitment. A 15% increase was proposed rather than the traditional 3% rate increase. Mr. Zella recommended holding and monitoring how other cities are responding to the rate increase. He will bring updates to the next city council meeting and it was moved to postpone action from council at this time..

The last item for discussion was on allowing "feather flags" within the city. Council reviewed the prohibited signs and design elements ordinance. Councilman Mitch Adams moved to keep ordinance regarding no feather flags allowed and it was seconded by Mr. Allen. Council suggested several ways to inform businesses why feather flags are restricted and that this has been a long standing ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

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A second reading of an ordinance on a request to abandon a 20 foot wide alley in a block of the Northfields subdivision, lying within the corporate limits of the city was presented. James Crain read the full ordinance and the mayor asked for action. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Next, council discussed a resolution authorizing the submission of the 2022 National Fitness Campaign application and authorizing the city manager and finance director to act as the city's representatives. This campaign will provide an outdoor fitness court in Cuero municipal park. The mayor asked for action by council and the resolution was passed and approved to proceed.

The next two resolutions were pulled from the agenda per the request of Mr. Zella to have more time to prepare. They will be presented at the next city council meeting.

Reports were presented on Cuero's 150th anniversary plans including the 2023 proposed schedule of events and budget by Amber Fitts with Cuero Heritage Museum. Council asked questions on the schedule, particularly for the main events in March, and how the 150th will be recognized throughout the year.

The seven year budget analysis report was presented by Connie Hawes, Finance Director for the City of Cuero. The council discussed the concrete slab needed for the fitness area that will be located in Cuero Municipal Park. The materials will be ordered and stored until after Christmas in the Park ends. At that time, land will be cured and the concrete slab will be poured. Discussion was held on location of the fitness area within the municipal park as to not impact Christmas in the Park scenes. Mayor Meyer recommended visiting each of the three proposed locations to measure and see which one will be the ideal location, particularly once the Christmas in the Park scenes are up. No action needed from council on this item as just a report to announce that funds were available.

Mr. Zella presented on the downtown walkthrough that landscaping is in progress and the painting and electric is complete. The awning on the front of the building is almost complete. A final walk thru with contractor and architect will be on October 25 and the project will be completed at that time.

Mr. Zella shared that a mural of Mr. Carmona will come at a later date and he estimated they should have foot traffic within a few weeks, with the ribbon cutting in early November.

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Mr. Zella also shared that LCRA notified the city last week that the city received a \$20,000 grant for new lighting at the rodeo arena. The total price for this new led lighting will run \$27-\$28,000, and the LCRA grant will cover \$20,000 of the total cost. Next, the city secretary shared the permit report for the last fiscal year and the mayor read highlights from the report. All items on the consent agenda were approved.

Keep Cuero Beautiful
Clean Sweep October 22, 2022

Litter Challenge

Sign up your team by calling 361-275-2112
Meet @ 9:00 at fire station for breakfast and area assignment
Turn in collected litter before noon
\$100 donation to local charity for top three winning groups
T-shirts to first 100 people
Supplies will be furnished



Let's Clean Up Together

Before the meeting closed, three upcoming items of interest to the community were shared.

Keep Cuero Beautiful will have their Clean Sweep event on October 22nd and are celebrating Fall Clean Up week October 24th - 29th.



Keep Cuero Beautiful

Come See Us At the Cuero Farmer's Market
October 22, 2022 9 am—2 pm

Information on “Belong”, a division of SJRC of Texas, was shared. The organization is looking for foster homes for children that are in state care and providing a full continuum of services for those children.



We will be handing out dog toys made by our members from old t-shirts



The mayor thanked city staff and volunteers for all the work done for Turkeyfest. It was a great celebration and she thanked all involved for a successful 50th Annual Cuero Turkeyfest.

For the latest updates on the City of Cuero, as well as council meeting agendas, minutes and more, visit www.cityofcuero.com. And, follow the City of Cuero on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofcuerotexas>

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