

City of Danbury
Town Hall Meeting
Minutes
Thursday,
May 2, 2024

Call to Order: Mayor Suzanne Powell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council Present: Rocky Hicks, Kylie Kroschel, Jon Williams, and Keith Woods

Council Absent: Gordon Hatthorn

Staff Present: Erin Nolan, Chief Henken, and Officer Turner

Pledge

Prayer: Aaron Caceres

Public Comment:

Sabrina Smith: Voiced concerns about proposed Animal Ordinance during the question and answer session.

Ashley Owens: Voiced concerns about proposed Animal Ordinance during the question and answer session.

Diane Leggett: Voiced concerns about proposed Animal Ordinance during the question and answer session.

Mayor Suzanne Powell Introduced the City Council Members, Staff employees and Breah Knape from Actions.

Chief Henken approached the audience and introduced Breah Knape and how he thought the program that she works for could benefit the citizens of Danbury.

Breah Knape- Community Outreach Discussion

- She is from Actions Inc. of Brazoria County. This program is available to anyone who lives in Brazoria County and is over the age of 60. It is not based on income.
- She discussed the services that they offer that she felt would be the most beneficial for the City of Danbury residents.
- She discussed the meals on wheels program.
- She discussed that they offered transportation all across Brazoria County. They

- offer transportation for doctor appointments, grocery shopping, etc.
- They have a medical equipment loaner program.
- She stated that anyone can reach out to her for help getting signed up for services, questions or information for any one.

Chief approaches audience and introduces Chief Bracken from the Danbury Independent School District.

Chief Shane Bracken:

- Chief Bracken went over safety improvements and security improvements that he has made since arriving to Danbury.
- He discussed Standard Response Protocol for the school district. Two websites that he suggests for parents to visit: I love you guys foundation and
- He took questions from the audience:
- One resident asked: In the event of a real lockdown, is there any communication to the parents? How do we find out about that? Chief Bracken: Yes ma'am, we currently have a system that we use to communicate with everyone in the district, Danbury PD, Constables, DPS instantly. Parents are communicated through Facebook, website, phone calls and emails.
- Another resident asked: Do you all do full mock drills on the lockdown and what is the response time? Chief Bracken: Response times would vary in order for us to get an accurate sample because they might be working an accident or another event.
- He wants anyone in the city to please email him with any questions. He is very open to answering any questions and knows that there are things that you all might see that he doesn't.

Chief Henken:

- Started by telling the City Council thank you for supporting him in all his needs for the City.
- Informed the audience that there are now 3 officers in the department, himself, Officer Taylor Rhyne and Officer Brandon Turner.
- He discussed statistics of reports for the City of Danbury.
- He discussed the purchase of the new camera equipment for the Officers and the vehicles.
- He discussed the updates to the computers and security of the department.
- He discussed the City wide camera project that was approved by council recently that will be beginning soon. There will be cameras installed at the WWTP, Water Tower, Park, Library, City Hall, Ball Park and Community Center.
- Opened up for questions from the audience:
- He discussed the Unique Vehicle Ordinance #23-09 and the importance of the implementation of it.
- A resident from the audience asked where to go to get registration: Chief replied that you go to Brazoria County and will pay one-time fee for registration that he believed is \$14.00 and it will be good for life of the unique vehicle.
- A resident asked if they needed to have an orange triangle on the unique vehicle. Chief answered yes that is a requirement.

- A resident asked how many accidents involving Unique Vehicles have occurred. Chief responded that one accident has occurred.
- Several residents stated that they have seen many children under age driving unique vehicles in town.

Mayor Suzanne Powell approaches the audience and begins to give several updates of the city.

Utility Department Update:

- City is utilizing the ARPA Grant funds received. New fencing at WTTP and lift stations, purchase of a backhoe that was delivered this week, and a new well site for the City.
- We applied and received funding for \$5.8 million grant through GLO that will be used for Infrastructure improvements.
- Conducted Fire Hydrant Maintenance – 45 hydrants in town
- New chlorine room at the water tower and refurbished the existing room through CDBG funds.
- 692 active water accounts in the City.
- The Mayor opened up for questions:
- One resident spoke and stated that the chlorine smell was awful at his house. A few other residents joined and said that they had the same issue. Mayor Powell and Council Member Kylie Kroschel asked that anyone having this problem please go online or call City Hall and file a complaint. They cannot fix an issue if not made aware of it and once they file a complaint they will send the Utility Department over and test the water.

Finance Update:

- We moved banking institutions. We now have no banking fees and are receiving interest on the accounts.
- We moved operating expense to a high yield account and gaining interest on the money in the account.

Ballfields:

- The rehab of the restrooms was completed.
- Gate at the Spur and Ball Park Road was installed for security measures.
- Installation of LED lights at the Baseball Ball field. We received a grant for \$50,000.00. The City put in \$10,000.00. DHEA funding of \$38,000.00 to provide the remaining funding needed for the project.

Roads:

- Last year we were able to have the county help complete 2 miles of road repair/maintenance.
- This year the county has changed it to two projects. Ave A 1st-5th Street and Ave J 1st-6th are the areas chosen.

Streetlights:

- We have 120 streetlights and they were all replaced with LED lighting.

Street Signs:

- We have completed about 85% of the town is complete with the new stop signs and street signs.
- The entire City will be completed this year.

Library:

- Replaced the flooring in the meeting room
- New plumbing: plex plumbing was installed to help with future freezes to prevent busted pipes.

Park:

- New slide was donated by the Civic Club and installed by Utility department.

Volunteer form:

- The city has a volunteer form that is good for one year. You can come to City Hall to fill it out if anyone is wanting to volunteer to help around the City.

Mayor's Trash Patrol:

- This is a program preferably for school aged children. This is a program that hopefully helps instill pride in younger generation for the City they live in.

Eagle Scout:

- Andrew Lewis came to council and requested permission for a project for Danbury. He created a box that will be located at the Library for residents to turn in their old and tattered flags.
- There is a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 9th at 5 p.m. if anyone would like to attend.

Election Day:

- Election Day is this Saturday, May 4th at the Community Center from 7 am – 7 pm.
- Two Alderman at large positions and Mayor position on the ballot
- Proposition A is also on the ballot for ½ % sales and use tax. This is the amount that the City puts into a dedicated fund for streets and roads for the City. If this is not voted in favor of then the council will have to put money aside for streets and roads.

Mayor opened up the floor for public comment and questions from the audience:

Ashley Owens: resident who would like to know where the existing concerns are coming from, this ordinance will eliminate her entire farm and means of living not only for her but many other residents in Danbury. She doesn't understand why council is choosing the maximum parameters allowed by law for the ordinance.

A citizen from the audience: Voiced their concern about FFA and not being able to house their animals for show. Council Member Kylie Kroschel stated that they will not be restricting the FFA students. Chief Henken did mention that Brazoria County does have residents who offer their land to help those students who participate in FFA a place to house their animals if needed.

Ashley Owens and Sabrina Smith: Residents would like to know why the sudden change, why not enforce the current ordinance that is in place.

Councilman Rocky Hicks and Kylie Kroschel: stated that there have been complaints turned into City Hall.

Kylie Kroschel: She is more concerned with those who do not properly care for the animals that they have and in order for Chief to be able to enforce that the City will need an ordinance.

Ashley Owens and Sabrina Smith: stated that there are already Legislature rules implemented for animal neglect/cruelty and that they would be happy to share that information with council.

A citizen from the audience: voiced their opinion about no goats being allowed in the City.

A citizen from the audience: Told how when they moved here ten years ago, there was nothing in the ordinance keeping them from having goats. He bought his wife two goats. They are their pets not farm animals. By not allowing goats the City is taking away from the small town life that Danbury is.

Councilman Jon Williams: Asked how many chickens do you all think is acceptable?

A resident from the audience: yelled out as many as they want it is their property.

Ashley Owens: While she appreciates that he asked the question she does not feel that she can adequately answer what a good number would be.

Melinda Strong: would like to know why the city would restrict the materials that the coop can be built out of when someone can build a home out of any materials. Is the city going to provide a list to the residents? It also says an employee shall inspect. She asked the question: are any of you animal control certified officers in town? The answer to her question was no. She then replied with, "then who is going to enforce it?"

Resident in audience: who stated that he read that could only have 4 dogs. He has 5 hunting dogs and he would be out of compliance. His dogs are NOT strays and he keeps them in his yard.

Another resident: what do we do about strays right now?

Chief Henken : We currently try to scan any stray found to see if they have a microchip, we ask the resident that found the stray if they can help hold them while trying to locate their owner. We use the utility truck and a kennel to transport the animal if we cannot locate the owner. We do have a contract with SPCA for dogs and cats. But our goal is to find the owner before taking them to the SPCA.

Sabrina Smith: Was told by a citizen who found a stray cat was told by an officer on duty today to just let the cat go, post on Facebook groups to find the owner. How come the officer did not try and see if it had a microchip? You have a scanner correct?

Officer Turner: I was the officer who spoke to the resident. I did not tell her to just let it go but to try posting on Facebook groups to see if could locate the owner. She did not ask me to scan for a chip. I do not have a scanner in my vehicle.

Resident in audience: Why can't Danbury have an Animal Control Officer? To help with neighbor issues, correlate with police department. He hopes that council would consider proposal for an animal control officer.

Councilmember Kylie Kroschel: points to a lady in the audience who has had her hand up for a while and would like to hear her speak.

Resident form audience: I would like to know if you all are in favor of this ordinance. Who is against it? Where do you all stand?

Councilmember Kylie Kroschel: we are trying to clean up the ordinance and clean up the town. Referenced area on Main Street that City worked to get cleaned up. The biggest issue is animals not being taken care of properly. Ordinances start out extreme and we are working to make it work for Danbury. This is just a working draft.

Councilmember Keith Woods: Basically we have to have some guidelines to enforce with those who are not. If you are keeping it clean and taking care of your animals then you have nothing to worry about.

Councilmember Jon Williams: This ordinance has work to be done on it before we will be ready to pass it.

Councilmember Rocky Hicks: This is a working draft and we want to hear your thoughts so please come to the council meeting and share them with us.

A resident from the audience: why should we come to a council meeting when you cannot interact with the citizens?

Councilmember Rocky Hicks: that is not true we want residents to come in and talk with

us at the meetings.

Resident form audience: when did that change?

Sabrina Smith: Yes, they can interact with you. They were answering all my questions and speaking with me when I was at the meeting.

Resident from audience: Doesn't understand why it needs to start extreme and why is the current ordinance not being enforced.

Councilmember Kylie Kroschel: we all pick and choose areas from ordinances that we have read that we would like to see in the ordinance and then we have to start taking out the items that will not work for our city.

Ashley Owens: Is this ordinance being voted on at the next meeting.

Mayor Suzanne Powell: No, there will be more meetings of discussion before its ready to be considered.

Resident Matt: How long before it is considered will it be released to the public?

Mayor Suzanne Powell and Council Member Rocky Hicks: It will be shared at least 72hrs before the meeting but please come to the meetings where it is being discussed and share your input.

Mayor Sue Powell: We hear you all, you want Danbury to stay small and farm town. But everyone speaking over each other is not getting us anywhere on the topic. Please send in all your concerns and suggestions. We want to receive them so that we can view them as we continue to work on the ordinance. Councilmembers will be around after the meeting for anyone who would like to talk or has more questions.

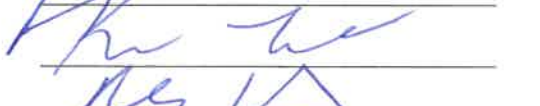
Many discussions going on at the same time during the meeting which made it difficult to document every citizen speaking their concerns.

Adjourn/Dismiss: The Town Hall meeting ended at 8:32 p.m.



Mayor Suzanne Powell







ATTEST by: 

Erin Nolan, City Secretary

