

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council Members of the City of South Padre Island, Texas held a Workshop on Thursday, October 27 2022 at the Municipal Complex Building, 2 Floor, 4601 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island, Texas. Mayor McNulty called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present: Mayor Patrick McNulty, Council Members, Ken Medders, Kerry Schwartz, Joe Ricco and Eva Jean Dalton.

City staff members present were City Manager Randy Smith, Director of Operations Wendi Delgado, Chief Financial Officer Rodrigo Gimenez, Fire Chief Jim Pigg, Police Chief Claudine O'Carroll, Shoreline Director Kristina Boburka, Fire Marshal Robert Garcia, Shoreline Coastal Coordinator Erika Hughston, Management Assistant Hilda Delgado, and City Secretary Angelique Soto.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND TEXAS PLEDGE**

Mayor McNulty led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Public comments and announcements were given at this time.

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

*Mayor McNulty combined 4.1A and 4.1H for discussion.*

**4.1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 18, GOLF CART ORDINANCE ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**A. INCREASE ANNUAL REGISTRATION: \$100/ANNUAL GOLF CART TO INCLUDE INSPECTION AND MUST HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE THAT MATCHES THE STATE MINIMUM.**

**H. ANNUAL INSPECTIONS TO BE PERFORMED BY AN OUTSIDE INDEPENDENT QUALIFIED INSPECTOR.**

Currently, the cost to inspect/register a golf cart is \$50.00 annually for commercial and residential golf carts.

Business Owner agrees to an increase overall but should remain the same for all golf carts as a whole.

Resident spoke about commercial golf carts and residential golf carts are separate being that commercial golf carts make a profit.

Business Owner spoke about how commercial golf carts bring money to the Island and should not be more than \$50.00 annually.

Business Owner spoke in regards to the \$50.00 increase (100% increase) as reasonable to help fund the City enforcement.

Residential Golf Cart owner (unnamed) agreed to the increase in the annual fee and voiced concerns that the funds will be spent on the City enforcement resources only to which the Mayor confirmed.

Business Owner discussed no issues with the increase from \$50.00 to \$100.00 but expressed other increases that could be applied to other businesses as well.



Council Member Schwartz addresses topic H and does not believe it is a good use of City resources to inspect golf carts.

Business Owner concurred with Council Member Schwartz and does not see an issue if another business was to do the inspection. While the time is not too consuming as the commercial golf carts are on site and Mayor McNulty clarified how residents have to the individual golf cart to the station.

Council Member Ricco suggested that inspections could be in-house and extend the residential golf cart tags for two years which would alleviate the stress of residential golf carts having to come to the station for inspection. Also keeping the funds here to be used toward enforcement.

Discussions were held about there being only one fee for the inspection. Whether the inspections are outsourced or kept in-house. While the State does not require the annual inspection since the State does not issue the plates. Business Owner Greenwood explained that a lift-kit was recommended by the dealerships.

Resident expressed the integrity of the inspection process could be compromised and that keeping inspections within the City is a great idea but understands Council Member Schwartz's concerns about utilizing staff resources that are needed to do the inspections.

Council Member Dalton inquired about the history of how the City came to issue the golf cart plates and not the State. City Manager Randy Smith explained that when the concept was developed it followed the Port Aransas method since the State was not issuing them at this time.

Also, City Manager Smith discussed how this was initially developed it was unknown how popular golf carts would become and whether it is a Marshal Program or a third-party company that oversees the inspections is better suited to allow detectives to focus on their active cases and investigations. At this time, the \$50.00 annual registration includes the inspection and license plate. Possible idea of the State issuing the plates was suggested.

#### **B. CREATION OF A COMMERCIAL LICENSE: \$250/ANNUAL.**

Open discussion included a review of the safety issues and multiple locations that received hundreds of calls for service from Jan. 2021 to October 2022 that take up City resources that staff has to respond to. It was clarified that the bar establishments do pay fees to the State and the City and that the locations are logged as the nearest point of location and not always a disturbance at that physical location.

Golf cart accidents that were previously researched and the reporting system does not list golf carts specifically and the query is manually searched. The idea of hiring more enforcement during peak times was suggested and a commercial license for every business that has rentals (surfboards, kiteboards, jet skis) is applied.

While many have requested more enforcement, the suggestion of fees could fund the added enforcement. Tickets and fines are broken down into categories that are distributed to the state.

*Mayor McNulty combined 4.1C and 4.1D for discussion.*

#### **C. COMMERCIAL LICENSE REGULATIONS.**

#### **D. COMMERCIAL LICENSE INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.**

Business owners discussed the business industry and insurance standards/requirements. One business owner holds a policy that is approximately four times the amount required by the state that would cover the liability claims. The golf carts are rented to those over the age of 18 and insurance covers all passengers in the golf cart.

*Mayor McNulty combined 4.1E, 4.1F and 4.1G for discussion.*

#### **E. SAFETY RESTRAINTS.**

**F. OPEN CONTAINERS.****G. RESTRICTING GOLF CARTS TO THE RIGHT LANE ONLY ON A 2-LANE STREET, EXCEPT WHEN IMMEDIATELY TURNING LEFT.**

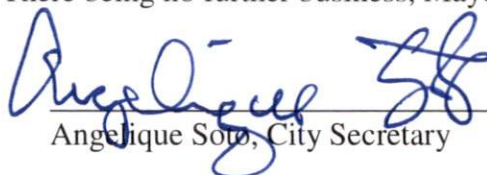
Much discussion was held and the City ordinance does require seatbelts for all occupants and could add safety restraints for children. More enforcement is needed and the Mayor clarified that these topics are for all golf carts (residential or commercial).

Approximately three years ago, the business owners voluntarily included the safety requirements notices on the rental golf carts, and suggestions were to include them in the ordinance. Also, the stickers could be placed on the golf cart by the entity that conducts the inspections.


While state law requires any slow-moving vehicles to be in the right lane, enforcement is needed.

**5.ADJORN.**

There being no further business, Mayor McNulty adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

  
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 Angelique Soto, City Secretary

APPROVED

  
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 Patrick McNulty, Mayor

