

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING THE MESQUITE HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND PROVIDING FOR THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF SUCH COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE SCOPE OF DUTIES OF SUCH COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SEVEN (7) REGULAR MEMBERS AND TWO (2) ALTERNATES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Mesquite recognizes the importance of protecting and preserving its heritage and places of historical and cultural importance; and

WHEREAS, within the City of Mesquite there are areas, places, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects having significant historical, archaeological or cultural interests and value which reflect the heritage of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to preserve these reminders of Mesquite's culture and heritage for the enlightenment of its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

Section 1. Creation and Composition.

There is hereby created and established a citizen's group to be known as the Mesquite Historical Commission which shall consist of seven (7) regular members and two (2) alternates to be appointed by the City Council at large for a term of two years except upon initial appointment the term of four (4) members shall be for one year to provide for staggered terms.

Officers of the Commission to be elected annually by the voting membership shall include a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Terms of appointment shall be effective from the date appointment is made by the City Council and for the length of the appointed term and until a successor has been qualified. Commission vacancies shall be filled in the same manner and for the same purpose as the original appointment and shall be for the unexpired portion of the term.

A majority of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. Should an active member be unable to attend a regular or special meeting, an alternate shall serve in an active member's place for that meeting. Alternate members shall not vote unless said member is in the place of an active member.

The term of any member, including alternate members, who has not attended more than eighty (80) percent of the regularly scheduled meetings, without prior approval of the Chairman in the event of inability to attend, in any six (6) month period shall automatically expire. Written notice of the vacancy shall be given to the City Council by the Secretary-Treasurer in order that the Council may make another appointment.

Members shall serve without any financial remuneration or compensation.

The Commission shall meet at least every three months, or more often as may be desired, upon the call of the Chairman at such time and place as it is necessary for the proper conduct of business. The time and place of regular meetings shall be determined by the membership.

Section 2. Purpose and Objectives.

The purpose and objectives of the commission shall be to preserve and accumulate local history, including sites, artifacts, genealogy data and any items pertaining to all periods of the local historic-past; to support educational and civic enterprises concerned with history and cultural heritage; to seek out and encourage the interest and efforts of individual citizens; and to determine means and ways for total community involvement in the accomplishment of these purposes and objectives.

To accomplish such purpose and objectives, the Commission shall have the authority to establish committees whose membership and chairmen thereof shall be appointed by the Chairman with approval of the Commission; to undertake programs to accomplish the objectives stated herein; and to seek assistance as may be needed in the undertaking of such programs of historic education and preservation; provided, however, that the Commission shall not incur any liability or expense on behalf of the City of Mesquite without prior approval of the City Council. The Commission may undertake fund raising activities to support the accomplishment of its purpose and objectives, provided all net assets of the Commission are irrevocably pledged at all times during the existence of the Commission to historical preservation as the Commission may determine.

Section 3. Scope and Duties.

The scope of the Commission's undertaking shall be city-wide and shall encompass, among other things, the planning of activities to recognize and celebrate the City's Centennial, educating the citizens of Mesquite on the history of the City, soliciting donations to provide for the maintenance of historic landmarks, the identification of places and areas

ORDINANCE/PAGE 3

of historical significance to the City, and the development of a long-range plan for the preservation and promotion of Mesquite's history and cultural heritage.

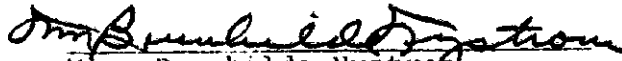
Section 4. Severability.

Should any paragraph, sentence, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of this Ordinance be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part of the provisions hereof other than the part so decided to be to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional.

Section 5. Declaring an Emergency.

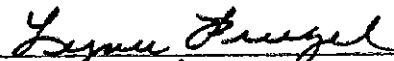
The fact that the present ordinances of the City of Mesquite fail to adequately provide for the preservation of historic and cultural landmarks within the City creates an urgency and an emergency and requires that this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication as the law and Charter in such cases provides.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 17th day of November, A.D., 1986.



Mrs. Brunhilde Nystrom
Mayor

ATTEST:


Lynn Prugel
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Elland Archer
City Attorney

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