

Ordinance to regulate pedestrian crossings on U.S. Highway 281 South

BY MADELINE MILLER
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lampasas City Council voted unanimously Monday night to approve the first reading of an ordinance to regulate pedestrian crossings on U.S. Highway 281 South. All council members attended the meeting.

Chief of Police Sammy Bailey presented the ordinance. She said most pedestrian deaths occur in urban areas at non-intersection portions of roadways in the dark.

The heavier a vehicle is and the faster it travels, the more distance it requires to stop. Bailey said vehicles entering the city from the south travel at 70 mph, and the speed limit then decreases to 45 mph and 35 mph.

As areas along the highway develop and U.S. 281 South becomes more congested, the chance of vehicle-pedestrian accidents increases.

"It's not a matter of when we have a pedestrian accident on South Highway 281," Bailey said. "It is a matter of we have been lucky that no one has been struck by a vehicle yet."

The ordinance would prohibit pedestrians from crossing the highway from E.E. Ohnmeiss Drive to the city's southern limits, except at marked crosswalks and unmarked crosswalks at intersections with traffic-control devices.

Bailey said the ordinance would be enforced the same way as any other traffic law. Police officers likely would issue warnings to first-time offenders but may ticket people if they continue to violate the ordinance.

The police department plans to post signs along the highway to inform people of the ordinance, Bailey said.

In other matters, council members also voted to issue requests for design proposals for a skate park and pavilion in Campbell Park.

City Manager Finley deGraffenried summarized the council's discussion of the skate park and pavilion that have occurred since July, and he encouraged council members to advise city staff on the funding and timing of the projects.

"Staff has taken a very methodical approach to this and tried to gain your consensus at just about every milestone there was," he said.

Councilwoman TJ Monroe said the city needs facilities at which youth can recreate and the Lampasas Association for the Arts can host events, and money spent on the skate park will benefit city residents.

"It is our park," she said. "It's the city's park. We're not just handing money to two entities because they can't fundraise fast enough."

Councilman Randy Clark said he is concerned about protecting the springs and requested city

staff ensure the designated project sites are geotechnically suitable.

Councilman Mike White said the skate park and pavilion are equally important to the City Council.

"It's one project. It's a skate park and a pavilion," he said. "We're not building one without the other. One's not more important than the other."

DeGraffenried said Wings of Eagles members have initiated fundraisers for the skate park.

Mayor Misti Talbert said Wings of Eagles also organized a clean-up event to encourage youth to be good stewards of Campbell Park and the future skate park.

Parks & Recreation Director Chris Eicher said he met with Yann Curtis, co-owner of SPA Skateparks, which has built skate parks throughout the United States.

"I can tell you, I've probably never seen a contractor more excited about a location for a build," Eicher said. "He said skate parks and artwork go hand-in-hand, and skate-park tourism is a real thing."

Eicher said he also spoke with contractors who could build a pavilion, and their pricing was better than expected.

"I don't see any reason not to move forward on both of these projects," he said.

Council members voted unanimously to

award a \$151,000 contract to McCoy Tree Surgery for tree trimming around utility lines.

The council also approved a renewal proposal for a Xerox printer at City Hall. Staff plans to trade the current printer for an upgraded model.

During the city manager's report, deGraffenried said as of the beginning of the week, the city's sales-tax revenue has increased 12.88% for 2020, as compared to 2019.

DeGraffenried said city staff is reviewing a request from Martin Marietta to sublease property at the city's industrial park.

Fire Chief Jeff Smith reported on the COVID-19 data for the county. He said another patient has died in the county since the beginning of October, bringing the total fatality count to 11.

In a final piece of business, the council voted to reappoint city board members who have agreed to serve another term.

Council members reappointed Neal Leavell, Misti Talbert and TJ Monroe to the Lampasas Economic Development Corp. Board, George Elsea to the Airport Advisory Board, Clifford Butts and Nathan Hooten to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals, and Diane Davis, Rick Rebando, Clay Harrington, Shirley Blake and Harvey Stinnett to the Parks & Recreation Board.

DISTRICT COURT

Lampasas County 27th District Court convened Oct. 9, with Judge John Gauntt presiding over the day's hearings.

Defendant Ezequiel Baerga Cintron of Killeen entered a plea of guilty and was found guilty of assault causing bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor, rather than his original charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Cintron received 60 days in county jail and is to turn himself

in on Feb. 1, 2021 to serve the sentence. He also is expected to pay court costs of \$305.

In other action, Christopher John Sanchez of Lampasas pleaded guilty and was found guilty of evading arrest, a Class A misdemeanor, rather than the original charge of evading arrest/detention with vehicle. The court assessed him two days in county jail – with credit for two days – a \$1,000 fine and \$305 in court costs. Sanchez has 30 days to pay the fine and court fees.

Dwayne Scott Walker of Lometa entered a plea of guilty and was found guilty of driving while intoxicated-third or more. He was given four years in the Texas Department of Corrections, probated for four years. In addition, he was fined \$1,000 and must pay court costs of \$485.

On a second charge Walker faced, he entered a plea of guilty to criminal mischief over \$2,500 and less than \$30,000. Under provisions of Texas Penal

Code Section 12.45, any future prosecution of Walker on this charge is barred.

Mindy Rose Evans of Mullin pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram, and she received three years' deferred probation. Her case will be transferred to Mills County for probation. Evans also was fined \$1,000 and must pay court costs of \$310.

Other 27th District Court

action from Oct. 9 was limited. The court reset the following hearings:

Pretrial hearings for Kristal Danielle Alderson of Lampasas were reset for Oct. 30. Alderson faces one charge of abandon/endanger a child-criminal negligence and one charge of accident involving injury.

A motion to suppress hearing for Shanon Noel Crumbley of San Lorenzo, New Mexico was reset for Nov. 16. She is charged with possession of a controlled

substance over 4 grams and less than 200 grams.

A pretrial hearing for Jerry Lamont Pickens of Belton was reset for Nov. 20. He faces a charge of engaging in organized criminal activity. A motion to substitute counsel was accepted.

A plea hearing with presentence investigation was reset to Dec. 4 for Joshua Dale Delacruz of Lampasas on a charge of invasive visual recording.

ARRESTS

The following arrests were reported to the Lampasas Dispatch Record by area law enforcement officials. The Dispatch Record prints the name and charge(s) of people arrested on at least one Class B misdemeanor – or more serious – charge.

OCT. 13

Eric Donovan Dalton, 39, of Lampasas on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Kashanda Haze Giarritta, 47, of Coppell on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.

Noel Ishmael Graves-Medina, 23, of Lampasas on charges of injury to a child/elderly individual/disabled person with intent to cause bodily injury, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, driving while intoxicated, criminal mischief with damage between \$100 and \$750, and two charges of resisting arrest/search/transport.

Kolby Hesbrook, 25, of Lometa on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Collin Joseph Hughes, 19, of Temple on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.

Maria Delacruz Michel, 35, of Copperas Cove on a charge of driving while intoxicated-second offense.

Danny Wayne Minshew, 51, of Bangs on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

Christian M. Roy, 18, of Kosse on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.

OCT. 11

Stephanie Isabel Liscum, 29, of Kempner on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

OCT. 6

Kimberly Ann Pierce, 49, of Copperas Cove on a charge of possession of a controlled substance over 4 grams and under 200 grams.

Janelle Marie Masters, 33, of Lampasas on a police department warrant on a charge of forgery.

OCT. 5

Janelle Marie Masters, 33, of Lampasas on a charge of burglary of habitation and on a police department warrant on a charge of burglary of a building.

OCT. 4

Anthony Dennis Crowley, 40, of Lampasas on a Lampasas Police Department warrant on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Reader's Choice Awards

LAMPASAS COUNTY BALLOT

Vote for your favorites below in any or all categories.
See instructions at the bottom of this ballot. Deadline to vote is Nov. 6, 2020.



DINING

Breakfast _____
Breakfast Tacos _____
Donuts _____
Meet For Coffee _____
Mexican _____
Fajitas _____
Enchiladas _____
Salsa _____
BBQ _____
Sausage _____
Ribs _____

Brisket _____
German _____
Italian _____
Pizza _____
Steaks _____
Catfish _____
Chicken _____
Chicken Fried Steak _____
Sandwich _____
Hamburger _____
French Fries _____

Fast Food _____
Business Lunch _____
Dining Atmosphere _____
Coldest Beer _____
Ice Cream _____
Desserts _____
Other _____

SHOPPING

Women's Wear _____
Men's Wear _____
Children's Wear _____
Western Wear _____
Shoes _____
Furniture _____
New Car Dealership _____
Used Car Dealership _____
Truck Dealership _____

Auto Parts _____
Tire Shop _____
Pharmacy _____
Convenience Store _____
Feed Store _____
Farm Equipment _____
Building Supplies _____
Gift Shop _____
Florist _____

Antiques _____
Jewelry _____
Custom T-Shirts _____
Supermarket _____
Gun Shop _____
Sporting/Outdoor Goods _____
Other _____

SERVICES

Day Care _____
Insurance Agency _____
Medical Facility _____
Veterinary _____
Law Firm _____
CPA Firm _____
Engineering Firm _____
Real Estate Agency _____
Title Company _____
Mortgage Lending _____
Bank _____
Hotel _____
Auto Repair & Service _____

Auto Body Repair/Collision _____
Oil Change _____
Heating/Air Conditioning _____
Plumbing _____
Landscaping _____
Excavating _____
Home Builder _____
General Contractor _____
Electrical _____
Roofing _____
Custom Signs _____
Metal Building _____
Septic Service _____

Trash Pick-up _____
Pest Control _____
Fencing _____
Welding _____
Caterer _____
Hair Salon _____
Nail Salon _____
Pet Grooming _____
Car Wash _____
Monument _____
RV Park _____
Nursing Home _____
Other _____

PEOPLE (List person's name and work place.)

Mechanic _____
Electrician _____
Plumber _____
Photographer _____
Salesperson _____
Boss _____
Assistant/Receptionist _____
Waiter/Waitress _____
Hair Stylist _____
Bank Teller _____

Veterinarian _____
Vet Technician _____
Attorney _____
Real Estate Agent _____
Accountant _____
Pharmacist _____
School Employee _____
County Employee _____
City Employee _____
Chiropractor _____

Dentist _____
Dental Assistant/Hygienist _____
Doctor _____
Nurse _____
Insurance Agent _____
Taxidermist _____
Engineer _____
Other _____

From the Lampasas County Ballots submitted, three lucky entrants will be drawn for a prize:

1st Prize \$100 • 2nd Prize \$75 • 3rd Prize \$50

Your Votes Count!

The more you vote, the more chances you have to win a prize.

Lampasas County Ballot rules:

- Only ballots from the Lampasas Dispatch Record will be counted. No copies allowed.
- Businesses must be in Lampasas County to be named Best of the Best.
- Ballots may be returned to the Lampasas Dispatch Record office at 416 S. Live Oak or mailed to Lampasas Dispatch Record, P.O. Box 631, Lampasas, TX 76550.
- Name, address and phone number of person submitting the ballot must be included. Dispatch Record staff and their immediate family members are not eligible to vote.
- Voting deadline is Nov. 6, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Ensure that your favorite people and places across Lampasas County receive Best of the Best recognition! Vote as many times as you like, as long as original newspaper ballots are used. No photocopies will be accepted.

Best of the Best recipients will be announced in January in our annual special section on Best of the Best in Lampasas County!

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Deadline to return this ballot to the Lampasas Dispatch Record: Nov. 6, 2020.