



CITY OF KEMPNER

NOTICE OF AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING & AGENDA Thursday, March 6th, 2025, at 6:00pm

Notice is hereby given that the Ad hoc Committee will convene in a public meeting in Council Chambers, located at 12288 E. HWY 190 Kempner Texas 76539. The items listed on this notice may be taken up by the Committee.

1. Call to Order

2. Citizen Comments

3. Workshop

- a. Discussions that are within the confines of Section 4 of Resolution No. 2025-02-25-001.

4. Adjournment.

Certification Of Legal Posting:

I hereby certify that this agenda has been posted on the City message board affixed to the exterior wall of the Isenhour / Clark Municipal Building AND has been posted on the City of Kempner official website (kempnertx.gov) at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Hayleigh Talasek

Signature of Certifying Official

Hayleigh Talasek, City Secretary

Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official

3/3/2025 at 3:10 PM

Date and Time signed:



CITY OF KEMPNER

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, March 6th, 2025, at 6:00pm

The Ad hoc Committee convened in a public meeting in Council Chambers, located at 12288 E. HWY 190 Kempner Texas 76539. The items listed were taken up by the Committee.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM with the following members present, Paul Miceli (Chair of committee), Erik Marquez (Place 1), Elliott Whitton (Place 3). Paul Henion (Place 2) was not present.

2. Citizen Comments

None

3. Workshop

- a. Discussions that are within the confines of Section 4 of Resolution No. 2025-02-25-001.

The consultation meeting focused on discussing firearm discharge regulations and safety standards within city limits. Key topics included the appropriate amount of land needed for safe firearm discharge, defining safe shooting ranges, materials and construction of shooting range berms and backstops, concerns about ricochets, liability and permitting for shooting ranges, and recommendations for city council regarding firearm discharge resolution. The meeting aimed to develop guidelines and recommendations for safe shooting range construction and propose a safety packet as an alternative to detailed regulations.

Q&A

1. Discussion on the appropriate amount of land needed for safe firearm discharge and the implications of Texas law on city regulations.

- Texas law states that cities cannot regulate firearm use on properties less than 10 acres for air guns and BB guns, or 50 acres for firearms. However, the law also requires that there cannot be a neighboring structure within 300 feet and that projectiles cannot leave the property.
- The city can regulate firearm use if the property is less than 50 acres, but the current ordinance suggests a minimum of 50 acres, which is considered excessive by some members.
- The focus should be on ensuring that projectiles do not leave the property and that there are no neighboring structures within 300 feet.

2. Discussion on how to define and ensure a safe shooting range within city limits.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution due to varying property sizes and shooting activities. The NRA provides performance standards rather than specific measurements for shooting ranges.

- Safety standards should include considerations for backstops, berms, and angles to prevent projectiles from leaving the property.
- Recommendations should be made for safe range construction, but the city should not certify ranges as safe due to liability concerns.

3. Discussion on the materials and construction of shooting range berms and backstops.

- Using unscreened dirt can lead to ricochets if projectiles hit rocks. Clean fill with no rocks is recommended.
- Different materials and construction methods can be used to ensure safety, such as using truck tires filled with dirt or creating a cave-like structure for shooting.
- The city should provide guidelines and recommendations for safe range construction, but not enforce specific construction methods.

4. Concerns about ricochets and the need for overhead cover in shooting ranges.

- Overhead cover is important to prevent ricochets from going straight up and potentially causing harm to neighboring properties.
- Safety measures should be in place to protect neighbors, animals, and livestock from stray projectiles.
- Recommendations should include overhead cover, especially when shooting steel targets, to contain ricochets.

5. Discussion on the language and requirements for safe firearm discharge within city limits.

- The projectile cannot leave the property and must not cross the property line.

- The ordinance is about controlling how firearms are discharged safely, not about infringing on gun ownership rights.
- City council could legally vote to prohibit firearm discharge entirely, but the current proposal allows for safe shooting within city limits.

6. Concerns about liability and permitting for shooting ranges.

- Permitting could put the city and individuals at risk if something goes wrong.
- The NRA does not inspect ranges; they rely on self-certification.
- Recommendations should be based on state requirements and safe range construction guidelines.

7. Minimum requirements for shooting range backstops.

- A backstop should be at least 5 to 6 feet thick at the impact area.
- The backstop should extend three times the target size to the left and right.
- The depth of the berm should be sufficient to stop the projectile.

8. Enforcement and classification of weapons for shooting ranges.

- The police department would enforce city ordinances.
- Classification by caliber is complex; a one-size-fits-all approach is impractical.
- Education and safety information should be provided to shooters.

9. Proposal for a safety packet instead of permits. -

- Citizens should sign for a safety packet that provides guidelines for safe shooting.
- The packet could be distributed digitally to minimize costs.
- This approach ensures citizens are informed without imposing strict regulations.

10. Recommendations for the city council regarding firearm discharge resolution.

- The committee should propose performance standards rather than specific construction guidelines.
- The resolution should focus on ensuring projectiles do not leave the property.
- Recommendations should be based on existing state laws and safety standards.

11. Discussion on the necessity of a safety packet and ordinance for firing ranges. -

- A safety packet is necessary to ensure safe firing range practices.
- The ordinance should be simple, with the safety packet providing detailed guidance.
- The ordinance should require residents to obtain a free safety packet.

12. Concerns about the permitting process and accountability.

- There is a preference against a formal permitting process due to cultural attitudes towards gun ownership in Texas.
- Accountability can be maintained by requiring residents to obtain a safety packet.

13. Details on the content of the safety packet and ordinance.

- The safety packet should include minimum safety standards and recommendations for berm construction.
- The ordinance should be concise, possibly two paragraphs, with the safety packet providing detailed guidance.
- The safety packet should include recommendations for new shooters and equipment.

14. Discussion on the timeline and process for presenting to the city council.

- The ordinance and safety packet should be ready for presentation to the city council by April.
- The city council is expected to vote on the ordinance in April.

15. Planning for the next steps and division of tasks.

- All Participants agreed on researching and to bring notes on berm construction, safety packet content, and recommendations for steel and paper target ranges.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th at 6 PM.

4. Adjournment.

Place 1 made the following motion: To adjourn

Seconded by Place 3

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

APPROVED: 

Paul Miceli- Chair of Committee

ATTEST: 

Rebecca Ramos - City Manager