

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03-28-E

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE CITY OF RANGER, TEXAS; RECOGNIZING THE UNIQUE NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND PRESERVING THE HISTORY, PARKS AND MEMORIALS FOR OUR VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY; SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP; REPEAL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; EFFECTIVE DATE AND OPEN MEETING CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, the City Commission (the “City Commission”) of the City of Ranger, Texas (the “City”) values the contributions and experience of the military veterans and their families within the City who have dutifully served their country;

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City recognizes the importance of maintaining and preserving the history, parks and memorials for our veterans, their families, and the community;

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City recognizes that the veteran community faces unique needs and circumstances;

WHEREAS; the City Commission of the City desires to establish a Veterans Commission to advise the City Commission on matters related to the veteran community and their families, increase visibility of veterans and veterans’- issues within the City, increase community engagement by and for veterans, inform the veteran community and their families of available services, programs, and resources, advocate for issues important to veterans, and participate in the planning of the City’s annual Veterans and patriotic events.

WHEREAS, the City Commission has the power and authority to create boards and commissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF RANGER, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1. Findings

That the above premises and findings of fact are found to be true and correct and are incorporated in the body of the ordinance as if copied in their entirety.

SECTION 2. Created.

The City Commission of the City creates and establishes the Commission on Veterans Affairs (the, “Commission on Veterans Affairs”) to serve as an advisory board to the City Commission concerning the well-being of military veterans and to maintain the rich heritage of the City’s service members, veterans, and military families’ contributions to our country and the community.

SECTION 3. Responsibilities and Duties.

The Commission on Veterans Affairs shall:

- a) Evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices designed to alleviate veterans' difficulties in meeting basic needs, obtaining housing, employment, and comprehensive mental health assistance;
- b) Function as a central clearinghouse for information relating to the status of veterans in the community;
- c) Accumulate information concerning the needs of veterans in the City, including available services and legal rights, and advocate to the City Commission regarding these needs;
- d) Research and provide recommendations on grant opportunities for veterans;
- e) Advocate and recommend programs for the restoration and revitalization of City owned veterans' resources that include the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, Veterans Monuments, and Veterans Museum; and
- f) Develop a Veterans Support Group which will be a volunteer organization designed to advise the Commission on Veteran Affairs on matters related to the veteran community within the City that would include outreach, engagement, event planning and execution, and maintenance of the City's veteran related properties and resources.

SECTION 4. Powers, Composition, Membership, Terms

- a) **Powers.** The Commission on Veterans Affairs shall advise the City Commission on matters related to the veteran community within the City, foster greater understanding of the veteran community, increase visibility of veterans and veterans' issues within the City, increase community engagement by veterans, inform the veteran community of available services, programs, and resources, and advocate for issues important to veterans. The Commission on Veteran Affairs shall be authorized to analyze data to identify service gaps; assess and recommend strategies that address veteran needs; advocate on issues facing veterans; create information guides; promote available veteran resources; host informational events and seminars; support recognition for veterans and their families; and participate in the planning of the City's annual Veterans and Patriotic Events. The Commission on Veterans Affairs shall advise the City Commission on veterans' services and suggest ways to support and/or improve the Vietnam Memorial Park and Veterans Events, subject to the oversight and budget constraints of the City Commission.
- b) **Composition and Qualifications.** The City Commission shall appoint a Commission of Veterans Affairs that shall consist of eight (8) members, with four (4) officers, as follows:
 - 1) The officers listed below are nominated and elected by the Commission:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice President
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer
 - 2) **Honorary membership.** Honorary membership may be granted upon nomination by Commission of Veterans Affairs and approval by the City Commission. This designation is used to highlight the programs supported by the Commission of Veterans Affairs and to recognize exceptional achievements and contributions by

service members or members of their family to the community. The term of such membership shall be as determined by the Commission on Veterans Affairs. Honorary members will have no vote.

- 3) Each appointee to said board shall be:
 - i. At least 18 years of age;
 - ii. Either a resident of the City or work or operate a business in the City or the City was their home of record upon enlistment or during their military service;
 - iii. An honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Military including the Reserves or National Guard; and
 - iv. Of good moral character and demonstrate an interest in the general welfare of the city.
- c) **Terms of office.** Except for vacancies in unexpired terms, members of the Commission on Veterans Affairs shall be appointed for a period of three (3) years. A Commission on Veterans Affairs may be reappointed to successive terms of office.
 - 1) Only to two (2) active City Commission members may be on the Commission on Veterans Affairs at one time.
 - 2) Any vacancy occurring shall be filled by appointment by the City Commissioners, acting from nominations made by the Commission on Veterans Affairs.
- d) **Compensation.** Voting and non-voting members of the Commission on Veterans Affairs shall not receive any salary or compensation for their services as Commission on Veteran Affairs members. However, they shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties herein.
- e) **Meetings.** The Commission on Veteran Affairs shall meet as necessary to perform its duties. All meetings and deliberations of the Commission on Veteran Affairs shall be called, convened, held, and conducted, and notice shall be given to the public, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Notice of any meeting of the Commission on Veteran Affairs and the agenda for such meeting shall be posted. While it is preferable for members to attend in person, attendance by phone, under certain circumstances, or videoconferencing is authorized only as prescribed by the Texas Open Meetings Act. A voting member that is absent from more than four meetings within a calendar year may be removed from the Commission on Veterans Affairs.
- f) **Quorum.** Five (5) regular voting members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 5. Veterans Support Group.

- a) **Creation, Purpose.** The Commission of Veterans Affairs shall develop a Ranger Veterans Support Group, which shall be a non-profit entity. Such members of the Veterans Support Group are intended to support and increase visibility of veterans within the city, increase community engagement by and with veterans, inform the veteran community of available services, advocate for issues important to veterans, and participate in the planning of the City's veterans and patriotic events. The Ranger Veterans Support Group shall support and advise the Commission of Veterans Affairs on matters to maintain, restore and revitalize the City-owned veterans' resources that include the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, Veterans Monuments, and Veterans Museum

- b) **Membership.** The Veterans Support Group is a volunteer organization that is open to general membership from the City of Ranger and surrounding communities that support veterans' programs for the community.
- c) **Veterans Support Group Fund.** The Ranger Veterans Support Group shall set up and maintain a fund for donations and fund-raising events supporting veterans' activities and recognition. The Commission of Veterans Affairs maintains oversight of the fund.

SECTION 6. REPEAL

- a) All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith shall be and are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY

- a) The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance, but they shall remain in effect notwithstanding the validity of any part.

SECTION 8. PROPER NOTICE AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- a) It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed was open to the public as required and that the public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required and that public notice, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

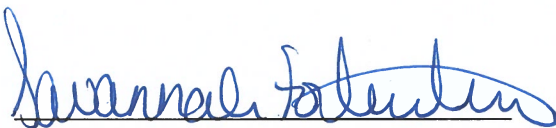
- a) This Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect upon its passage and publication as provided by law, and it is so ordained.

FIRST READING PASSED AND APPROVED, this 14th day of March, 2022.

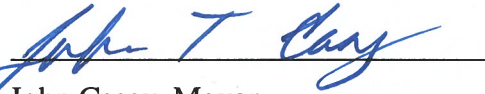
SECOND READING PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 28th day of March, 2022.

ATTEST:

THE CITY OF RANGER, TEXAS



Savannah Fortenberry, City Secretary



John Casey, Mayor

