

Council 'de-funds' day laborer site

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The Lewisville City Council took action Monday night which in effect scraps a controversial plan to build a day laborer site on the south side of Old Town.

The council approved "a transfer in the amount of \$138,709 from the Day Laborer Capital Project to the Drainage Improvement '07 Capital Project."

The action was one of 10 consent items on the agenda approved without any comment from the council.

However, the subject was discussed briefly during a work session which preceded the regular

council meeting, and three people came to the podium during the visitors/citizens forum at the regular council meeting to speak against building a day laborer site.

In the work session, council member Lathan Watts — who was elected in May — said he is not taking credit for the transfer even though he publicly opposed building the day laborer site while campaigning.

Watts said the transfer in effect "de-funds" the project. The amount was for the construction of a shelter, restrooms and parking. City officials earlier had hoped the Texas Department of Transportation, the county or

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someone else might donate, or lease property for a shelter to be built as a site for day laborers to convene to be available for work. The city had eyed sites near the Pines Motel on I-35 and near the 7-Eleven on Mill Street.

During the visitors/citizens forum, Greg Hayden, a Lewisville resident, came to the podium to oppose the city's funding of a day laborer site.

"It's my opinion, that the city would be held accountable to prove that everyone in that cen-

ter is a United States citizen," Hayden said.

Elaine Bass, another Lewisville citizen, also spoke strongly against a day-laborer site.

"The last time I spoke before this council, I asked you to consider measures to eliminate the illegals in Lewisville," she said. "Unfortunately, the measures were found to be of no interest by you."

"Yet, I recently learned that \$138,709 was budgeted to build a day labor site for the illegals," she continued. "I am outraged that this would even be a consideration by you, and that you would put the city of Lewisville at risk

as a sanctuary city for illegals."

"I now understand that the \$138,709 will not be used for the day labor site, and I thank you for your common sense by changing your minds on the issue," she said.

John Gorena, also a Lewisville resident, came to the podium to express his opposition to the day laborer site. He also expressed opposition to a proposal to call for an election to decide whether smoking should be banned in all restaurants in Lewisville.

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