

## FM Council approves emergency center

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The Flower Mound Town Council reached milestones at the Monday April 21st meeting, approving the town's first 24-hour emergency center, as well as the town's first steakhouse. "The town now has its first full-fledged emergency room, and full-fledged steakhouse," said Councilmember Tim Trotter, adding, "All in one night, too!"

The HCA Emergency Center's request to add onto their new building, as well as constructing a spot for an ambulance, was approved. Doug Welch, with the Emergency Center, explained their operation. "It'll be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year, with state-of-the-art equipment," he said. In regard to the use of ambulances, the center is expecting to have 3-5 ambulances a day, seeing about 20-25 patients a day.

Flower Mound resident Carol Kohankie is delighted about the approval, "We've needed this for so, so long. I was a patient at the Lewisville emergency room, and I had to wait 8 hours before I was given a room. There were patients being treated in hallways; this center was desperately needed." Brenda and Ron Lentz feel the same way as Kohankie. "We feel like we've won the lottery, and are extremely happy," said Mr. Lentz. "Up until 15 years ago I didn't feel like I was welcome; Flower Mound is such a young crowd. I'm happy to see that they're thinking of us senior citizens," said Brenda Lentz.

Another Flower Mound resident Cliff Hodge is also enthusiastic with the development of the center, "This is a first for Flower Mound, and I'm very excited." "The expected opening is Christmas, if the construction goes on time," said Welch. And after finishing this statement, members of the audience burst into applause.

Texas Roadhouse also had their request for the redesign of a pitched roof approved. Angel Robinson, a Texas Roadhouse representative, said that the color of the bricks are consistent with the other buildings, and are even the same brick as the bordering Northwest Plaza wall, satisfying Councilmember Joel Lindsey, who had concerns with how the building would blend in.

Councilmember Al Filidoro had concerns about the issue of what to do with a specific building structure if the company leaves that building. "We should have some kind of plan. I support the application and I don't think they'll fail, but, we should be prepared, just for the future." As for an expected opening, Robinson said it was a corporate decision, but that they were really excited about this project, and would start the construction documents this week.

The upcoming bond election was discussed, explaining where the funds would be distributed. Councilmember Laurie Long encourages the public "to go out and vote; it does make a difference. Ninety percent of the community doesn't vote in local elections, and we need to be a leading community."

Since the last meeting, Bluebonnet Park has been evaluated. The park was visited by town officials and the concerns were observed. Councilmember Long had a few ideas for future agendas, including the taping of public workshops and then streaming them online, more development with the green community and the formal process on getting an item put on an agenda.