

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION
April 20, 2011**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Phil Dyer, Mayor
Lee Dunlap, Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Miner, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Ben Harris
André Davidson
Lissa Smith
Harry LaRosiliere
Jean Callison

STAFF

Bruce Glasscock, City Manager
Frank Turner, Deputy City Manager
LaShon Ross, Deputy City Manager
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney
Diane Zucco, City Secretary

Mayor Dyer called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m., Wednesday, April 20, 2011, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Members Callison and LaRosiliere.

Opening Remarks

City Manager Glasscock spoke to setting the foundation as the Council moves into the process of adopting the budget for 2011-12. He spoke to focusing on General Fund departments and including information regarding the impacts seen as a result of reductions over the last three years. Mr. Glasscock spoke to the impact of decisions on the City's financial reputation and stability, quality of services and citizen/employee satisfaction. He spoke to maintaining the core values of providing outstanding service and facilities in cooperative efforts with citizens and contributing to the quality of life while revising strategies and practices. He spoke to Council consideration of whether or not to try and maintain the AAA bond rating, continuing the use of reserve balances, maintaining the tax rate, avoiding the issuance of debt, and/or a planned gradual tax rate increase to offset revenue changes.

Parks and Recreation Department Overview

Parks and Recreation Department Director Fortenberry spoke to their mission statement: "Enriching Plano through Parks, Facilities, Programs and Resource Stewardship" and provided an overview of employees (205 full-time, 690 part-time), accreditations, funding, awards received, sites and facilities. She spoke to assets of the department, partnerships with other organizations, volunteer participation and emergency preparedness responsibilities.

Ms. Fortenberry spoke to General Fund reductions including the elimination of free Senior Recreation Center transportation, the reduced level of maintenance of park land, reduced use of nighttime sports facilities, elimination of public swim times during the school year, elimination of the volunteer recognition event, shifting the costs of concerts to the Recreation Revolving Fund, shifting athletic field layout costs to user groups, partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Collin County for the operation of the Douglass Community Center, partnering with DART to continue the Plano Senior Rides Taxi Voucher Program, suspension of the Public Art Program, elimination of 28 full-time and 3 part-time positions, two major re-organizations and elimination of two department divisions. She spoke to the importance of technology in the department, additional trail connections, the opening of the Tom Muehlenbeck Center, and decreases in revenues and attendance. Ms. Fortenberry spoke to use of the facilities by youth sports and other organized groups and budget reduction impacts including: the loss of flexibility to respond to unplanned events, lower maintenance levels, higher participation fees, delay of projects approved by citizens through bond elections (Oak Point Park improvements, Carpenter Park pool, Senior Center expansion, skate/dog parks, Douglass Community neighborhood park site and lighting of Plano Independent School District tennis courts).

Ms. Fortenberry spoke to the following challenges and opportunities: rising fuel prices resulting in more site-based work, acceptance of lower maintenance standards, increased employee absenteeism, loss of intellectual knowledge as a result of retirements, loss of promotional opportunities, and challenges in recruitment and retention of quality employees. She spoke to continuing renovations and possible grant opportunities and to finding a balance between privatized services and core in-house services. Ms. Fortenberry spoke to consideration of the City's cost-recovery philosophy and whether the focus should be on service delivery or financial decisions.

She responded to the Council regarding the distribution of monies in the Recreation Revolving Fund with a transfer of user fees and five percent of the net profits to the General Fund. Ms. Fortenberry spoke to the cost of programs being intertwined between direct service costs and those for utilities and site expenses. She further spoke to the benefits of departmental accreditation and differentiating publicly provided recreation services from those in the private sector by the availability of facilities and inclusion of all family members in programs and opportunities. Mr. Glasscock spoke to the funding of programs through the City's tax base and whether or not to consider increased fees. He further spoke to holding discussions with County officials regarding the availability of grant funds for the maintenance and improvement of parks. Ms. Fortenberry responded to the Council regarding a possible revision of service levels, advising that her recommendation would be to identify underutilized program times and potentially cut a day from schedules. She advised that utilizing rotating days for closures would prove problematic for scheduling purposes.

Health and Animal Services Department Overview

Director of Health Collins spoke regarding the objectives of the Animal Services Division: to protect the public and animals and contribute to the quality of life in the City. He advised that services provided include at-large animal pickup, animal quarantines, deceased animal pick up, pet adoptions, education, complaint response, cruelty investigations, nuisance complaints, and pet registration. Mr. Collins advised that the shelter housed 7,490 animals in 2009-10 with an overall placement rate of over 80% (second highest in the state), 2,319 animals sterilized and only 22 euthanized.

Mr. Collins spoke to only 5.3% of the pet population being registered and projected that if all were licensed, the department would collect 100.5% of their total budget. He reviewed field calls, rabies incidents, animal complaints, shelter visits, web site information and educational programs. Mr. Collins reviewed budget reductions and efficiencies including new fees, fee increases, staff reductions (2.5 full-time employees), reduced operations/maintenance expenditures, shelter expansion designed for minimal staffing, and outsourced pet registration. He spoke to the impact of changes including a reduction of 30% in field operation hours, elimination of trapping services, and stated that further reductions will have service impacts. Mr. Collins spoke to current and future issues including shelter renovations utilizing 25% City funding and 75% donations and the emergence of public private partnerships for registration and veterinary services. He and Animal Services Manager Cantrell responded to the Council regarding fees charged for impounded animals and coordination with other area facilities, verifying resident status when accepting animals at the shelter and the high level of adoptions. Mr. Collins advised that Animal Services is approximately 20% revenue supported and responded to City Manager Glasscock that he would provide previously gathered information regarding service delivery/cost if services were provided through an alternative means.

Mr. Collins reviewed the Health Department advising that the Consumer Health Division in 2009-10 permitted 1,357 facilities, conducted 3,167 routine food/restaurant inspections, handled 198 restaurant and 52 food borne illness complaints, permitted 458 temporary/seasonal events, trained 4,000 food handlers/manager and conducted 123 plan reviews and 205 certificates of occupancy inspections. Mr. Collins further advised that consumer health is 56% revenue supported, the Retail Food Program is 69% revenue supported and the Food Manager/Handler Programs are 100+% revenue supported.

Mr. Collins spoke to smoke-free regulations in place since June 2007, with 19 complaints investigated in FY 2009-10, possible modification following action in the legislature and the City's ordinance as a model for state regulations. He spoke to monitoring water quality in the City by inspection of 401 public/semi-public pool facilities and advised that with budget reductions the number of inspections has been reduced and that the program is approximately 48% revenue supported. Mr. Collins spoke to mosquito and vector control and the treatment of more than 100 pools during 2009-10 and responded to the Council regarding treatment methods and funding from the Water Quality and Drainage Fees. He advised regarding the mandated Storm Water Management Program, 100% supported by the Municipal Drainage Utility fee, the mandated Industrial Pretreatment Program approximately 79% revenue supported and the Liquid Waste Program preventing clogged sewer lines and pollutant discharge.

Mr. Collins spoke regarding current and future issues including staff reductions (2 field specialists and 1 manager) over the last three years, reduction in retail food safety inspection frequency, a reduction in the number of public/semi public pool inspections, the upward trend in response time to non-emergency food, pool, and environmental complaints and advised that further budget and staff reductions will decrease temporary and seasonal event inspections. He spoke to the inspections performed by supervisory staff in addition to increased managerial responsibilities. Mr. Collins responded to the Council regarding cost recovery for mosquito and vector control effort and spoke to categories for retail food inspections based on risk analysis and the optimum schedule being four times per year for high risk, three for medium and two for low risk as opposed to the current schedule.

Conclusion/Next Steps

The Council requested copies of information be provided prior to future sessions along with information regarding any studies of privatization. Council Member Harris spoke in support of receiving cost-recovery information. City Manager Glasscock spoke to the impact future reductions will have on the quality of services provided. Nothing further was discussed. Mayor Dyer adjourned the session at 9:37 p.m.

Phil Dyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, City Secretary