

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL  
NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE  
DISTRICT TWO  
DECEMBER 10, 2009**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Phil Dyer, Mayor  
Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor Pro Tem  
Lee Dunlap, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
Pat Miner  
Ben Harris  
Mabrie Jackson (resigned)  
Lissa Smith  
Jean Callison

**STAFF**

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck, City Manager  
Frank Turner, Deputy City Manager  
Bruce Glasscock, Deputy City Manager  
Rod Hogan, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Israelson, Assistant City Manager  
LaShon Ross, Assistant City Manager  
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney  
Diane Zucco, City Secretary

The Plano City Council met informally at 7:09 p.m., Thursday, December 10, 2009, at the Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Center, 5801 West Parker Road, Plano, Texas. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Members Miner and Smith. Mayor Dyer welcomed those in attendance and introduced Council and Staff. He spoke regarding the structure of the Council where all members represent citizens across the City.

**2009/2010 Budget Update**

Director of Budget and Research Rhodes-Whitley spoke to the decline in sales tax revenues, efforts on the part of Council and Staff to address a deficit projected for 2009-10, and an increase in ad valorem taxes of 1.51 cents, the majority of which will be used to pay for debt. She spoke to the projected \$20 million deficit for 2010-11 and the requirement that Council pass a balanced budget. Ms. Rhodes-Whitley stated that the Collin County Appraisal District has advised there will likely be an 8% reduction in commercial property value for the coming year and spoke to the positive impact of the economic development fund, the costs for operation/maintenance for new facilities, and the impact of heavy rains on income for the Water/Sewer Fund. She responded to questions from citizens regarding the cost of the January special election and efforts to maintain the City's AAA bond rating. Ms. Rhodes-Whitley welcomed new ideas and spoke to the low tax rate in Plano as compared to other area cities. City Manager Muehlenbeck spoke to a January bond sale and Ms. Rhodes-Whitley spoke to street projects where there are matching funds.

In response to a citizen's question, City Manager Muehlenbeck advised that there was a 45% decrease in participation when recreation membership fees were raised. Citizens spoke to maintaining library hours and to their willingness to pay more taxes with the understanding these would be adjusted when the economy improves.

Mayor Pro Tem LaRosiliere spoke to the deficit forecast for 2009-10 and \$10 million in service/personnel cuts and review of services by the Council. Mayor Dyer spoke to a one penny increase in the property tax rate resulting in \$2.5 million and the reduction of \$10 million in sales tax revenues. Ms. Rhodes-Whitley responded to a citizen, advising that the City is unable to track spending by citizens versus non-citizens and Mayor Dyer spoke regarding sales tax distribution (6.25 cents to the state, 1 cent to DART and 1cent to the City).

### **Economic Development Progress Report**

Plano Economic Development Board Executive Director Bane reviewed the facilities that opened in 2008-09 including Children's Medical Center, Capital One Auto Finance, Denbury Resources, Cigna-Regional Headquarters, Diodes, and Hope Center. She spoke to the number of medical facilities in Plano, 2009-10 projects including Crumb Corp and Huawei, Pizza Hut construction with a value of \$15-20 million, and the number of data centers. Ms. Bane spoke to the jobs brought to the City, improvements and pending projects from Alliance Data Systems and Tektronics.

Ms. Bane spoke to Chapter 380 incentives where companies agreement to comply with requirements for occupancy and personnel, the number of healthcare industries coming to the City, the popularity of incentives and limitations/benefits of tax abatements. She advised that Plano is advertised as a top city for working families with low business costs, educated workforce and world-class business parks. Ms. Bane spoke to challenges of a maturing city as aging infrastructure, slow revenue streams, the impact of other cities with 4A and 4B funds, and external retail growth and the opportunities including redevelopment/infill, organic business growth, emerging industries, increased awareness, and recruiting from high-cost and regulated markets. She advised that the board has a staff of five and that efforts can be Plano-specific or regional in nature and that during slow economic times, companies take more time to analyze decisions.

### **Community Investment Projects/Street Repairs/Improvements/Resurfacing – District 2**

Director of Public Works/Engineering Upchurch advised regarding design work on intersection improvements for Plano Parkway/Preston Road; construction of improvements at Coit Road and Legacy Drive; widening of McDermott Road from Coit Road to Ohio Drive; intersection improvements at Spring Creek Parkway/Coit Road; improvements on Communications Parkway from Parker Road to Spring Creek Parkway and on Razor Boulevard east of Ohio Drive. He spoke to work on the left turn lanes on Ohio Drive south of S.H. 121; testing of equipment at the Mapleshade Lift Station; widening of Marsh Lane south of Parker Road; widening of Plano Parkway west of Midway Road; residential reconstruction in the area bounded by Spring Creek Parkway/Coit Road/Hedgcoxe Road/Preston Road and the change out of water meters in the City.

Mr. Upchurch responded to citizens, advising that now is an opportune time to bid projects as pricing is low; S.H 544 west of the Burlington Northern Railroad is not within Plano City limits; the median left-turn lane at Preston Road/Legacy Drive has been delayed by weather; ramps at Parker Road/U.S. 75 are working toward completion; and advised that plans for an overpass at Preston Road/Plano Parkway have been removed from plans.

### **Fire Station #12/Emergency Operations Center & Fire Station #13 Update**

Fire Chief Esparza spoke to completion of Station #12 (including Logistics Facility and Emergency Operations Center) at Parker Road/Coit Road; plans to go to bid for Station #13 early in 2010; and adding a bay at the Roundrock Station. He responded to citizen questions advising that Station #12 was delayed due to contractor issues, is much larger than a typical station and Staff does not anticipate traffic problems in the area. Mayor Dyer spoke to Plano's ISO 1 rating and being the only "flagship" municipality.

### **Major Park Projects and Park Land Acquisition**

Parks and Recreation Director Fortenberry spoke to the similarities between the Park Master Plan in place in the 1960's and development today. She advised regarding two acquisitions: Sunset Park at Midway Road to provide parking and a trail connection; and the White Rock Creek Community Park Addition including 80 acres completing a 124-acre site with trail connections for future development. She responded to citizen questions, advising that trails will follow creeks and bridges, spoke to the cost for park land and advised there would still need to be agreement between parties even if eminent domain were used. Ms. Fortenberry spoke to removing the proposed pool from plans for Carpenter Park Recreation Center and moving forward with an expansion of the weight room; and the use of "soft" trails at Oak Point Park. She advised that Staff will review uneven trails at Arbor Hills.

Council Member Harris opened the floor for general questions and advised that Staff will review multiple mailings related to utility billing and that the Council has not yet considered increased expenses that may be associated with caps on trade. City Manager Muehlenbeck spoke to the City being turned down in efforts to secure stimulus funds and Mayor Dyer advised that the City cannot increase the sales tax rate. Council Member Harris spoke to the 1 cent of sales tax that is paid to DART and responded to a citizen regarding traffic/noise concerns.

Mayor Dyer thanked those in attendance. Nothing further was discussed and the meeting was closed at 8:47 p.m.

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**Phil Dyer, Mayor**

ATTEST:

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Diane Zucco, City Secretary