

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL
NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE
DISTRICT ONE
MARCH 5, 2009**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Evans, Mayor
Jean Callison, Mayor Pro Tem
Harry LaRosiliere, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Miner
Scott Johnson
Mabrie Jackson
Sally Magnuson
Lee Dunlap

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 7:12 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at Plano Centre, Northbrook Room, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, Texas. All Council Members were present. Mayor Evans arrived at 7:14 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Callison welcomed those in attendance and introduced Council and Staff. Mayor Evans spoke regarding the Council/Manager form of government and the structure of the Council where all members represent citizens across the City.

2009 Bond Referendum: Oak Point Park Update

Budget Manager Srader spoke to maximizing outside funding for street improvements, the lack of a general election in 2010 and costs for a stand-alone election, referendums providing authorization only, maintenance of an ISO 1 rating by the Fire Department dependent on Station #13 and equipment, the need for renovation at the aquatic centers and the pricing of land acquisition. He reviewed the propositions including \$11.3 million for Public Safety Improvements (engine/fire apparatus, renovation of existing stations, Fire Station #13 and video surveillance); \$8 million for Technology Services Facility; \$34.5 million for Street Improvements (capacity improvements, reconstruction and other items), \$1.7 million for Library Facility Improvements; \$48.6 million for Parks and Recreation Improvements (land acquisition, White Rock Creek Community Park, Oak Point Park, Athletic Field Renovation, Park and Athletic Field Improvements, and Pecan Hollow Golf Course); and \$24.1 million for Recreation Centers (Senior Center expansion, Carpenter Park expansion, Oak Point Park expansion, aquatic center renovation, Douglass Community Center) for a total of \$128.6 million along with a revocation of \$3.5 million in authority for the grade separation at Preston Road and Legacy Drive.

Mr. Srader advised that the maximum impact would result in an annual increase of \$66.41 for the average home valued at \$251,733. He reviewed the ad valorem tax rate history advising that in prior elections, projects have been financed at existing rates, and spoke to the decision by Council to increase the tax rate in 2006-07 by two cents to provide economic development incentives and Plano's low tax rate when compared to other cities in the Metroplex.

The floor was opened for questions and a citizen expressed concerns regarding multiple vehicles/residents per household and the use of residential property for businesses (car and yard sales). City Manager Muehlenbeck responded regarding the tax rate impact on small businesses, advising that the rate applies to all properties equally and to the City's dependence on growth over the years to cover the costs for referendums. He advised that residences will receive a homeowner's exemption while commercial properties will not. Mr. Srader advised that the City is AAA rated by bond agencies and has \$300 million in outstanding authority and Mr. Muehlenbeck spoke to timing sales to receive the best interest rates. Parks and Recreation Director Wendell spoke to the amount of park requests, the benefits of land acquisition at this time, projects requested by citizens, updating of infrastructure and the final decisions for projects being made by the Council. He spoke to improvements in the Clearview neighborhood being funded through the Capital Reserve Fund and the need to move to bond funds. Mr. Wendell spoke to the ballot items representing a 3-4 year plan for the future and Mayor Evans spoke to plans for trails at Oak Point Park to make use of the property, the need for parks/libraries during hard economic times, the variety citizens' interests and moving forward to complete projects. Mr. Srader spoke to user fees increasing to cover operating costs and Mr. Wendell spoke to the increase in costs for previously approved improvements at Carpenter Park Recreation Center. Citizens spoke in support of street projects and to raising taxes for services rather than funding all capital projects proposed. Assistant Fire Chief Thompson spoke to the use of fitness equipment at stations, updating of station heating/air conditioning, and the impact on homeowner insurance costs should the ISO rating decline. Mayor Evans spoke to the freeze on tax rates of senior citizens.

Community Investment Program & Street Improvements – District 1 (14th Street construction update): DART Improvement Plans at Parker Road: Parker Road and US 75 Interchange Improvement Plans

Public Works Director/City Engineer Upchurch spoke regarding the completion of Jupiter Road/Plano Parkway intersection improvements in June; landscaping and irrigation along Parker Road; the kick-off for railroad crossing quiet zones; 15th Street/G Avenue to US 75 expected to be complete in 1-2 years with TxDOT funding; alley reconstruction programs; and various intersection improvements. He spoke to extension of Chaparral Road; bidding on the Shiloh Pump Station project; waterline rehabilitation in the Ridgewood area; Jupiter elevated tank repair; rebidding for pavement/waterline/sewer projects on R Avenue and 17th Street; reconstruction projects in the Meadows Addition; reconstruction on 14th Street from K Avenue to Ridgewood; arterial slab replacement on Jupiter Road; waterline projects in cul-de-sacs; and uninterrupted power supply for traffic signals at major intersections.

Mr. Upchurch spoke to rapid progression on the increases to parking at the Parker Road Station (+589 spaces) and the SH 190 Station (+386 spaces) and to the Parker Road and US 75 Interchange improvements running ahead of schedule with opening of the new bridge in June 2009.

Mr. Upchurch responded regarding 14th Street (K Avenue to Ridgewood) advising that due to limited rights-of-way Staff determined a continuous left-turn lane was unsafe, spoke to a bond referendum as a five-year program and building roadways as traffic warrants, and there being no prohibition for trucks on Los Rios Boulevard. Staff was complimented on the work done on Calvary Road.

Downtown Residential and Commercial Leasing Activities

Director of Planning Jarrell spoke to new businesses locating in the Downtown area, rehabilitation of various properties, new town homes at Lexington Park and the new mixed-use project at 15th Street and the DART Rail (opening in 2010) which will provide 230 additional apartments and 15,000 square feet of commercial use.

Code Enforcement Overview (Benefits to Homeowners and Businesses, Resources)

Property Standards Director O'Banner spoke to code enforcement authority based in federal/state/city law along with international codes. She spoke to challenges with enforcement of parking vehicles, addressing screening walls, fences, overhanging tree limbs, obstruction, surface parking and junked vehicles with a Staff of 16 inspectors. Ms. O'Banner spoke to effective enforcement utilizing the option of administration remedies to bypass the criminal justice system and/or civil litigation processes, advocating education/involvement of citizens, establishing creative ways to gain compliance, and ensuring codes reflect the community and enforcement of regulations. She spoke to resources including *Gatekeepers* (Geriatric Wellness Center), *Plain-O-Helpers* and other community volunteers. Ms. O'Banner advised that auto repair/painting is not permitted in residential areas, residents may sell vehicles they own and yard sales are monitored for frequency. She responded that economic conditions may have resulted in more residents per home and guidelines in place to ensure there is adequate living space. She spoke to the public reporting vehicles that may be parked on lawns or away from curbs, etc.

A citizen spoke regarding possible profiling by police, concerns regarding vandalism, and gangs in some apartments. Another citizen spoke regarding dangerous dogs in the City and vandalism and Ms. O'Banner spoke to Code Enforcement working hand-in-hand with the Police and Animal Services for enforcement. Police Chief Rushin spoke to neighborhood officers.

Mayor Evans thanked those in attendance. Nothing further was discussed and the meeting was closed at 9:11 p.m.

Pat Evans, Mayor

Jean Callison, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, City Secretary