

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL
NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE
DISTRICT THREE
JUNE 4, 2009**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Phil Dyer, Mayor
Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor Pro Tem
Lee Dunlap, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Miner
Ben Harris
Mabrie Jackson
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 7:12 p.m., Thursday, June 4, 2009, at Plano Sports Authority StarCenter, 6500 Preston Meadow, Plano, Texas. All Council Members were present. 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, Plano as one of the safest cities in America, the demographics of District Three and passage of the bond referendums representing citizen investment in the future.

FY 2009-12 Financial Forecast

Director of Budget and Research Rhodes-Whitley spoke regarding the \$13 million shortfall in the General Fund, Council's decision to address the 2009-10 budget immediately upon approval of the 2008-09 budget, and prioritization of possible reductions. She spoke to double-digit declines in sales tax revenues six of the last seven months, a comptroller adjustment of \$1.4 million and proactive steps taken during the budget planning process to anticipate decreases. Ms. Rhodes-Whitley spoke regarding the anticipated decline in property tax evaluations, the impact of an upcoming bubble in commercial properties and the 33% decline in building and development revenues. She spoke to expenses which include no salary increases, five percent attrition, increases in health insurance costs, purchase of library books and inclusion of funding for economic development to attract new commercial entities and redevelopment in the City.

Ms. Rhodes-Whitley spoke to Council consideration of a possible \$8.6 million in reductions and reviewed key dates on the budget calendar. She advised that increases passed through from the North Texas Municipal Water District are typically related to debt, system expansion and chemical/electricity costs. Mayor Dyer spoke to the importance of City sales tax to the budget, and Ms. Rhodes-Whitley advised that any economic stimulus monies received would have no impact on the budget.

Community Investment Project (CIP) and Street Improvements – District 3

Chief Engineer - CIP Cosgrove spoke to stimulus monies related to construction at Legacy Drive/Preston Road. He spoke to work on improvements at Coit Road/Legacy Drive, main line work on Alma Drive and Independence Parkway, the bid for expansion of Ridgeview Drive to six lanes (Custer Road/Independence Parkway), design for the Russell Creek Sewer Rehabilitation project, “smoothing” bumps at the Spring Creek Parkway/Custer Road intersection with adjusted alignment, pavement rehabilitation on Legacy Drive, and additional fire hydrants along Spring Creek Parkway. Mr. Cosgrove spoke regarding the automation of school-zone flashers and the possible elimination of the Safe Streets Program.

Assistant City Manager/Director of Customer Utility Services Israelson spoke to using technology to send signals from City water meters directly to the Municipal Center through a wireless network with all meters replaced in eight months. He spoke to testing and accuracy of the system and movement by other utility providers to automated processes. Mr. Israelson spoke to contacting the Public Works Department to report watering issues, there being no water restrictions currently in place and requested citizens “water wisely.” Mr. Cosgrove spoke to replacement of water mains, automation of the traffic signal system and advised that Staff is no longer accepting applications for the Safe Streets Program. Traffic Engineering Manager Neal spoke regarding the timing of signals, the benefits of the wireless school flasher program and advised that Plano does not utilize the flashing yellow signal as it has not been adopted nation-wide. Police Chief Rushin spoke regarding the success of the Red-Light Program and its consideration by the legislature. Mr. Neal spoke to signalization at Ridgeview Drive and Independence Parkway, construction of Rasor Road (Ohio Drive to S.H. 121), and determination of speed limits on S.H. 121 service roads.

Council Member Jackson received questions from the audience and Chief Esparza advised that the City cannot control parking on public streets and spoke to access needed by emergency vehicles. Chief Building Official Mata spoke to sign regulations and an audience member requested revisiting the issue to address realtors’ concerns. Director of Property Standards O’Banner spoke to the need for identification of those submitting code complaints to prevent “hacking” of the system. She advised that colors for painting a home are not governed by the City, but may be addressed through homeowner’s associations. Director of Planning Jarrell responded to a citizen regarding height limits on wind turbines and solar panels. Chief Esparza spoke regarding possible reductions in the Fire Department including the elimination of two Staff positions, overtime for outreach programs, and an on-demand ambulance. He advised that all fire trucks include paramedics to meet “on time” goals and provided an update on Fire Station 12.

Chief Rushin spoke to cutting vacancies from the department, removal of some school liaisons with programs provided through PISD, moving to shared cars for detectives, and cuts in uniform, training and operating accounts. He advised that no officers are being removed from the streets, benchmarking with other cities and Plano's low crime rates. Council Member Jackson responded to an audience member that there are no changes planned for Collin Creek Mall at the present time and spoke regarding multiple ownership of the facility.

Mayor Dyer thanked those in attendance and recognized the designation of Mr. LaRosiliere as Mayor Pro Tem and Mr. Dunlap as Deputy Mayor Pro Tem. Nothing further was discussed and the meeting was closed at 8:48 p.m.

Phil Dyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, City Secretary