

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL
NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE
DISTRICT FOUR
AUGUST 21, 2008**

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, Executive Director
Bruce Glasscock, Executive Director
Rod Hogan, Executive Director
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney
Diane Zucco, City Secretary

The Plano City Council met informally at 7:15 p.m., Thursday, August 21, 2008, at Plano Sports Authority StarCenter, 6500 Preston Meadow, Plano, Texas. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Member Jackson who arrived at 7:40 p.m.. Mayor Evans welcomed those in attendance and introduced Council and Staff.

FY 2008-2009 Budget Presentation/FY 2008-2009 Community Investment Program Presentation

Director of Budget and Research Rhodes spoke to the City's budget of \$399.8 million and effects of the economy. She spoke to expenditures for Public Safety (25%), Water and Sewer (24%), General Government (15%), Debt Service (11%), Parks and Recreation (9%), Libraries (3%) and Sustainability and Environmental Services (5%). Ms. Rhodes spoke to the deficit forecasted in March and reduction methods including elimination of vacant positions, new and existing fee increases, an increase in property values and departmental and transfer savings eliminating the deficit for 2008-09. Ms. Rhodes spoke to growth comprised of residential (19%) and commercial (81%) properties, reviewed exemptions and tax freezes, and spoke to the average home valued at \$251,733 paying \$953 in City taxes. Ms. Rhodes spoke to past gains in business-to-business sales tax, the City's ability to pay for bonds out of revenue and the current decline in sales tax revenues.

Ms. Rhode reviewed areas of the budget including \$6.1 for North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) increases; \$5.2 million for economic development; an average 3% merit increase for non-civil service employees with 3% for civil service; CIP projects coming online from both the technical and general funds; and costs for health insurance, public safety, electricity, fuel and TMRS increases.

Ms. Rhodes spoke regarding notice received from the NTMWD that both water and sewer rates will be increasing due to increased fuel, electricity, chemical and capital costs. City Manager Muehlenbeck spoke to the system being based on the highest consumption and guaranteeing it would be available if needed. He spoke to the City paying the same level for water whether it is used or not and a change in this policy requiring a unanimous vote by all member cities. Ms. Rhodes spoke to an Environmental Waste Fee increase of \$1.25 per 95-gallon container tied to fuel costs. Sustainability and Environmental Services Director Nevil responded to a citizen, advising that revenue from recycling is \$800,000 and that discussions have been held to expand the range of products recycled.

Ms. Rhodes spoke regarding the Community Investment Program in the amount of \$118.9 million including streets (39%), parks (20%), capital reserve (13%), water and sewer (15%) and municipal drainage projects (9%). She reviewed key dates on the budget calendar.

Community Investment Projects – District 4/Street Repairs/Improvements/Resurfacing

City Engineer Upchurch spoke to current projects including alley reconstruction in Prairie Creek, screening walls in the Cloisters, and Riverbend Lakes dredging. He spoke to bids for drainage improvements at Parker Road/Alma Drive, screening on the north side of 15Th Street, and intersection improvements. Mr. Upchurch spoke to future projects including replacement of street pavement on Westwood Drive, addressing creek erosion areas, replacement of water lines and pavement on Baffin Bay, and improvements at Coit Road/Spring Creek Parkway.

Mr. Upchurch responded to a citizen, advising that the Coit Road/Spring Creek intersection would utilize median left turns and spoke to direction from Council not to install overpasses. He spoke to the median left turns as the most efficient design and advised they could be retrofitted. Mr. Upchurch spoke to planning for screening walls along Park Boulevard, completion of sewer work including the sealing of manhole covers, the timetable for Parker Road east of K Avenue and impact on residents during dredging of lakes and drainage improvements.

Operations Manager Falls spoke regarding repairs in the district and to installation of uninterruptible traffic signals. He spoke to evaluation of the sanitary sewer system and use of school zone flashers. Mr. Falls advised that left turn signals are set based on the traffic flow and volumes.

Police Chief Rushin spoke regarding red light cameras, advising that there are currently 13 locations resulting in accident reduction and revenue for the Traffic Safety Fund after state payments. Mr. Neal responded to a citizen regarding the signals at Tulane Drive and Matterhorn Drive on Coit Road and advised that timing is set by safety measures. A citizen complimented the City on the creek drainage improvements along Chisholm Trail.

Arts of Collin County Update

ACC Commission President, Steve Matthews spoke to the vision of the Arts of Collin County to create an environment where all Collin County residents can share and enjoy in the full diversity and vitality of the arts and goals to create the finest regional arts center in America, establish an art park, create a community focus and a pedestrian environment. He spoke to the donation of 126 acres in 2005 with a value of \$22 million, the construction of Exchange Parkway and design changes. Mr. Matthews spoke to the Master Plan (Phase One) including a 2,100 seat multi-purpose hall, learning room, art gallery, multi-purpose classroom, meeting/event facilities, restaurants and *The Meadows* (event terrace, sculpture garden, creek walk and hike and bike trails). He spoke 12 acres reserved for commercial development anticipated on S.H. 121 and to offering a venue for school, community and road house groups, along with arts education and reviewed major donors to the project.

Mr. Matthews responded to a citizen advising that Phase One includes \$85 million in expenses and spoke to fundraisers to achieve sufficient monies to begin construction. He advised that this budget is only for the first phase of the project and spoke to the building utilizing green technologies. Mr. Matthews spoke to the failed votes in McKinney for participation and to Plano being bound to the project via an interlocal agreement. He spoke to the split of operations/maintenance proportionally among the cities based on population and to revenues supporting a portion of the operation costs. Mr. Matthews advised that the split of tax revenues gained on the commercial property would have be considered by the entities. Mayor Evans spoke to the use by school groups who currently do not have a venue.

Mayor Evans opened the floor for questions and Customer/Utility Services Director Israelson responded to a citizen, advising that if residential areas have not moved to Verizon Fios, they are using copper wires. Citizens commented on the need for recycling containers at public venues, issues of those from other cities utilizing DART parking, and in support of siren use by the Fire Department when responding to calls. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem LaRosiliere spoke to other cities contributing to DART in the future, expansion of the system and cooperation among entities. City Manager Muehlenbeck spoke to upcoming expansion of DART parking and issues of distinguishing between residents and non-residents since the program utilizes federal funding.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem LaRosiliere responded to a citizen advising that his vision of the future is for Plano to remain vibrant through economic development and a revenue base with businesses helping to pay for services. He spoke to creating destination venues and the challenges of redevelopment, addressing aging areas, citizen ownership of their neighborhoods and creating a vibrant business community. Council Member Magnuson spoke to work on the infrastructure, businesses to help the tax base and open houses held by the Police and Fire Departments. She spoke to the “invisible” benefits of the City and the importance of comparing Plano to other communities.

Planning Director Jarrell responded to a citizen regarding pay-day loan establishments, the challenges in regulation and preparation of an inventory for Council review. Property Standards Director O'Banner spoke to addressing vegetation overgrowth in alleys and advised that Staff does not enforce deed restrictions of a homeowners' association which may be more strict but not more lax than those of the City. Mr. Neal responded to a citizen that the speed bumps installed on Mission Ridge Road were done so at the request of neighborhood residents.

Nothing further was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Pat Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, City Secretary