

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL
PRELIMINARY OPEN MEETING
July 26, 2010**

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

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

Mayor Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., Monday, July 26, 2010, in Training Room A of the Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Member Davidson. Mayor Dyer then stated that the Council would retire into Executive Session in compliance with Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, in order to consult with an attorney and receive Legal Advice/Litigation, discuss Personnel, Section 551.074; and to receive information regarding Economic Development, Section 551.087 for which a certified agenda will be kept in the office of the City Secretary for a period of two years as required.

Mayor Dyer reconvened the meeting back into the Preliminary Open Meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Consideration and Action Resulting From Executive Session: Personnel Reappointments

Board of Adjustment

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Miner, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint Peter Krause, Henry C. Pauly, Michael Pirek and Edward J. Stankunas and to move Mr. Pauly and Mr. Stankunas to regular positions.

Building Standards Commission

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap and seconded by Council Member Harris, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint James Mack Craft, Jr., Gary Johnston, Jim C. Kesterson and Mo Khoshkar and to move Mark Greer to a regular position.

Heritage Commission

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap and seconded by Council Member Smith, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint B.C. “Bud” Hopkins and Anne Quaintance-Howard.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Upon a motion made by Council Member LaRosiliere and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Miner, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint Michael Coleman and Tracey S. Dry.

Personnel: Reappointments

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

The Council deferred consideration of reappointments.

Civil Service Commission

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap and seconded by Council Member Callison, the Council voted 7-0 to confirm the reappointment of Patrick W. Gallagher following City Manager Muehlenbeck’s recommendation.

Community Relations Commission

The Council concurred to make no reappointments to this committee.

Cultural Affairs Commission

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap and seconded by Council Member Callison, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint Marilyn Mahoney and Allen B. Safir, OD.

Library Advisory Board

Upon a motion made by Council Member Harris and seconded by Council Member LaRosiliere, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint Debra Conway Benton, Carl Eugene Ford, Pearl Garza Fracchia and Denver Tracy.

Parks and Recreation Planning Board

The Council deferred consideration of reappointments.

Plano Housing Authority

Upon a motion made by Council Member LaRosiliere and seconded by Council Member Callison, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint Paul J. Gephart, Jr. and Jeanine Boehl.

Retirement Security Plan Committee

The Council deferred consideration of reappointments.

Self Sufficiency Committee

The Council concurred to make no reappointments to this committee.

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

The Council deferred consideration of reappointments.

Tax Increment Financing District #1 Board

Upon a motion made by Council Member LaRosiliere and seconded by Council Member Smith, the Council voted 7-0 to reappoint Michael Booth, Howard S. Garfield and Holly Parmelee.

Live Green in Plano Public Communication

Director of Sustainability & Environmental Services Nevil advised that a newsletter is mailed three times per year; one designated for the water quality report (required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to be direct mailed to every household by July 1st) and another to promote the Live Green Expo. She spoke to mailings serving as one of the main lines of communication at low cost, encouraging citizens to access services, coverage of a broad range of topics, the increase in calls for specific service requests following delivery and those attending the expo as a result of information provided.

Council Member Smith recognized the department for their recent award and spoke to implementing a more aggressive marketing approach utilizing the web site, social media, local news coverage and requesting corporations disseminate information to employees. She spoke to lobbying the legislature to allow publication of the water quality report on the City's web site and recommended cutting back the number of newsletters to two per year. Ms. Nevil spoke to those who utilize mailings to receive information and requested waiting a year to reduce their number so that alternative methods of communication can be researched and developed. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Miner spoke to homeowners' associations that print newsletters upon request.

Ms. Nevil responded to Council Member LaRosiliere, stating that one focus of the newsletter is on diversion including recycling, disposal of appliances and electronics to reduce solid waste. Council Member Harris spoke to partnering with other entities to offset costs and utilizing new technology to distribute information and Mayor Dyer spoke to combining departmental mailings. City Manager Muehlenbeck spoke to the MP3 class looking into corporate partnerships. Council Member LaRosiliere spoke to conducting a survey to determine how citizens access information regarding services. Ms. Nevil requested sending out three newsletters for 2010-11, receiving feedback, and reviewing options. Council Member Smith spoke to more effective use of the web site and alternative means of communication.

Presentation and Discussion regarding the Cottonbelt Railroad Upchurch 10 min.

Director of Public Works and Engineering Upchurch spoke to consideration of locations for a connection between the Cottonbelt Railroad and the DART Red line and the difference in vehicles with the Cottonbelt trains operating on freight tracks rather than light rail. He spoke to the 12th Street Station which follows the existing rail alignment, includes an elevation of the red line station, access to east Plano and northern Richardson, available land for parking and train storage, easy transition from one line to the other, and possible eastern extension.

Mr. Upchurch spoke to the options favored by the City of Richardson including a Bush Station Southern Option entailing a new alignment of the Cottonbelt and right-of-way east of Alma Drive, a major crossing of US 75, issues of Oncor electric easements east of Alma Drive, potential environmental issues with the flood plain and a future extension requiring additional right-of-way at Plano Parkway. He spoke to the Bush Station Northern Option which follows the existing alignment, curves east and south within Richardson, includes an elevated crossing of F Avenue, parallels the red line on the west side south to Bush Station, requires possible right-of-way acquisition at the northwest corner of Plano Parkway and can accommodate future extension north of the SH 190. He advised that two stations would not be viable as they would serve the same ridership, include an additional stop with increased rider trip time and stated that the 12th Street Station could not be built on the curve necessary for the Bush Station.

Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap spoke regarding the need for a double track since the trains operate differently. He spoke to there not be sufficient room for the Cottonbelt to go north to the Plano Station and his opinion that it isn't feasible to extend light rail further north. Mr. Upchurch spoke to the costs of elevating the red line station and the benefits of this location. He spoke to the potential costs for either of the Bush Stations and to preliminary environmental studies by DART with more information to follow.

Comprehensive Monthly Financial Report

Finance Director Tacke advised that for the month of June 2010, General Fund revenue was down slightly as a percentage of the budget compared to last year with the Water/Sewer and Sustainability funds up slightly. She advised regarding the slight increase in expenses for the General Fund with declines in the Water/Sewer and Sustainability expenses. Ms. Tacke advised that the unemployment rate of 7.2% continues to be below the national average, provided a recap of the real estate market and spoke to hotel/motel revenue down as compared to last year.

Council items for discussion/action on future agendas

Council Member Smith requested an update on senior transportation for the August 14, 2010 Budget Session.

Consent and Regular Agendas

No items were discussed.

Nothing further was discussed. Mayor Dyer adjourned the Preliminary Meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Phil Dyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, City Secretary