

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL  
PRELIMINARY OPEN MEETING  
August 24, 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

Mayor Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m., Monday, August 24, 2009, in Training Room A of the Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. All Council Members were present. 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, Section 551.071 and 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 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers where the following matters were discussed:

**Consideration and Action Resulting From Executive Session:**

No items were discussed.

**DART Report**

DART Board Member Faye Wilkins spoke regarding the Parker Road Station parking expansion, passage of legislation addressing implementation of paid parking, and funding for the Northwest Park and Ride. She spoke to renaming the West Plano Transit Center in honor of Jack Hatchell, service fee changes effective in September and ridership increases. Ms. Wilkins stated that sales tax revenues continue to decline and spoke to additional ingress/egress from HOV lanes on U.S. 75, opening of the Green Line for the state fair, and plans to accelerate the Cottonbelt line.

## **Mobility Report**

Transportation Engineering Manager Neal spoke to signal timing at Custer Road/SH 121 and waiting for traffic to normalize before adjustments are complete. He reviewed transportation-related legislation from the recent session including bills addressing the ban against the use of cell phones in school zones and placement of 1,700 signs by the end of the year. Mr. Neal spoke regarding bills imposing penalties on those who fail to yield to blind/disabled pedestrians, consequences for driving without a valid license, operation of mopeds/golf carts on roadways posted at 45 MPH or less, the authority of municipalities to lower residential speed limits, and DART related parking fees and fares. He spoke to legislation imposing a civil penalty on emergency vehicle owners violating a red-light camera, and providing drivers with information regarding driver distraction and the rights/responsibilities to bicyclists on roadways. Mr. Neal responded to the Council, advising that signage for school zones is an unfunded mandate and spoke to utilizing existing poles and issues of enforcement.

## **Comprehensive Monthly Financial Report**

Director of Finance Tacke spoke regarding the July 2009 report indicating that General Fund revenues continue to be down as compared to the prior year and to the decline in building permit, civic center and hotel/motel tax revenues. She spoke to year-to-date actual expenditures which are up and the effect of personnel costs including funding post-employment benefits. Ms. Tacke spoke to the increase in expenditures for water/sewer due to the automated water meter readers and payments to the water district and the continued downward trend in sales tax. She spoke regarding investments including their diversification, yield, and maturity schedule.

## **On-Line Check Register**

Director of Finance Tacke spoke to options including utilizing a spread sheet presentation which does not offer search capabilities or development of a program with a more professional view. She responded to the Council regarding the costs for development and timeframe of five to six months. Council concurred in directing Staff to move forward with a more robust on-line check register.

## **Ambulance Billing**

Chief Esparza advised the Council that beginning in 1982, a determination was made to charge a transportation fee for ambulance service due to the costs of larger infrastructure (training, medicines, and equipment) and utilizing a “soft” collection method depending on insurance for payment so that citizens are not discouraged from calling for assistance. Chief Esparza reviewed billing trends and the move in 1993 to charge different rates for residents versus non-residents. He spoke to mutual aid responses between cities, pricing and collection in the mid-range with recovery of 66%.

Chief Esparza advised that utilizing the services of an outside agency for additional collections would net \$124,409 and to moving forward with a new process to place clients on a payment plan at no additional administrative cost. He responded to Council, advising that almost all monies collected are from insurance and that Plano does not have a high volume of false calls. The Council stated a consensus in directing Staff to move forward with the payment plan system.

**Council items for discussion/action on future agendas**

No items were discussed.

**Consent and Regular Agenda**

No items were discussed.

Nothing further was discussed. Mayor Dyer adjourned the Preliminary Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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**Phil Dyer, Mayor**

ATTEST

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**Diane Zucco, City Secretary**