City of Grand Prairie

City Hall Plaza
317 College Street
Grand Prairie, TX

Minutes - Final
City Council

Tuesday, July 5, 2011 | **4:30 PM** | **Council Briefing Room**

Call to Order

Mayor England called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Present 9 -

Mayor Charles England; Mayor Pro Tem Ruthe Jackson; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Richard Fregoe; Council Member Greg Giessner; Council Member Mark Hepworth; Council Member Ron Jensen; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Council Member Jim Swafford and Council Member Bill Thorn

Staff Presentations

1 Library - Women Directors' Film Festival - Presented by Kathy Ritterhouse

Peter Sime, Senior Librarian, informed the Council about the Lois Weber Film festival to be held at the Uptown Theatre from July 24 through July 30. He said the festival centers around the role of women directors in the past and present and is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Lois Weber, for whom the festival is named, directed her first short feature in 1911 and by 1916 was Universal Studios' highest paid director. Her films examined corruption and political and social issues.

Kathy Ritterhouse, Library Director, said that the film festival is being advertised on WRR Radio Station, the Grand Prairie Arts Council is assisting with getting information out, ads have been placed in newspapers, and it is on the Dallas Film Commission website, and in the Pipeline. Those who have a library card will receive a discount on tickets.

Council Member Shotwell noted that one of the films to be shown is "Winter's Bone" and he highly recommended it. Council Member Hepworth asked if it was more important that the film festival be a financial success or have a full house. Ms. Ritterhouse said she would like to have a full house.

Mayor England introduced Steve Dye, new Police Chief.

2 The WOW! of Tourism - Presented by Amy Sprinkles, Communications and Marketing Director

Amy Sprinkles, Marketing and Communications Director, stated that 17,000 people visit the Tourist Information Center annually. She said the city has 2500 hotel rooms and 1,530 people are employed by tourism. The city collects about $1 million in hotel motel taxes, and has 6 million visitors a year. Traders village is the biggest attraction in Texas. Other tourist attractions include Lone Star Park, Verizon Theater, Palace of Wax/ Ripley's, AirHogs Stadium, Joe Pool Lake, Lynn Creek and Loyd Parks, the Marina and Oasis Restaurant, Uptown Theater, Farmers Market, Turner Park Disc

Golf, the Skate Park, TangleRidge and Prairie Lakes golf courses, Prairie Lights, and several sporting events (1,000 kids playing at the USSSA Tournament). The new outlet mall will be breaking ground on July 7. The Visitor Guide is sent to states outside Texas area (75,000 distribution). In addition there are ads running on TV in the DFW area and outside the area. The marketing website gets 55,000 hits a year. Council Member Shotwell asked about the possibility of a camp store at Loyd Park. Ms. Sprinkles replied that is to be considered during the budget process.

3 Discussion of Board/Commission Term Limits

Mayor England said there are no term limits on the Housing Finance Corporation or the Sports Corporation. He said some people might wonder why these board do not have term limits. He said he thought that term limits should be removed on all boards. Mayor England added that the decision was made many years ago to put term limits on boards and if there is a good member on a board Council should be able to keep them. He said the Council can remove anyone from any board or commission at any time they choose. He said he was not sure what the concern is about term limits. The Sports Corporation has spent $19 million dollars on many city projects and there is $12 million in reserve for capital improvements at the track or for city facilities. He said his recommendation would be to remove term limits on all boards at the next meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Jackson asked if the Sports Corporation and Housing Finance Corporation were different from other boards. City Attorney Don Postell said they are corporations and most other boards are not. He said board members are appointed by the Council and the Council can set rules for appointment to boards and commissions.

Council Member Jensen asked what the Crime Control Commission terms are. Mr. Postell said there are statute requirements for two-year terms. Council Member Hepworth said he brought up the issue of term limits because of inconsistency. He said several constituents had asked why there are term limits on some boards and not others. Mr. Hepworth added that It would be good to remove term limits to provide consistency on the boards. He said the reason he brought the issue of term limits to the Council Development Committee was because the PID board brought the issue of term limits to the Council Development Committee.

Council Member Shotwell said Council does not have term limits and he did not have a problem with boards not having term limits. He added that Council can remove a board member by getting a majority vote of Council or a super majority if it is not your appointment. He said he would like to maintain those stipulations if term limits are removed. Council Member Jensen said he would like to keep two-year terms.

An ordinance eliminating term limits for city boards and commissions will be prepared for Council consideration at the next meeting.

Council Member Shotwell said the reason the PID term limits issue was brought to the Council Development Committee was because it fell under planning and zoning. He said he would like to clarify the responsibilities of Council standing committees.

Agenda Review

Council Member Shotwell invited everyone to attend the movie, "Breakfast at Tiffany's" at the Uptown Theatre on Thursday, July 7.

Mayor England said that staff had asked to table Item 12 (Public Hearing and adoption of an ordinance levying paving assessments for improvements to Arkansas Lane) to the August 2 meeting.

Executive Session

An executive session was not held.

Recess Meeting

Mayor England recessed the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

6:30 PM City Council Chambers

Mayor England reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Bill Skaar, First Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Council Member Bill Thorn led the Pledge of Allegiance to US Flag and to the Texas Flag.

Presentations

4 Republic of China (Taiwan) Day Proclamation

Council Member Richard Fregoe read a proclamation in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Mr. Fregoe noted the exhibition of photos on display in City Hall depicting the 100 years of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Members of the DFW Taiwanese Chamber and members of the Grand Prairie Sister Cities organization were also present.

5 Employee of the Month - Mike Powell, Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Station 8

Fire Chief Clif Nelson introduced Mike Powell, Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Station 8, as Employee of the Month. Deputy City Manager Tom Cox thanked Mr. Powell for his dedication to his job and to the city and presented him with a city shirt and clock.

Consent Agenda

6 Minutes of the June 21, 2011 Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Richard Fregoe, to approve items 6 through 11 on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

7 Change Order and Final Reconciliation - I30 Roadway Lighting Project with Independent Utility Construction

8 Amendment No. 15 of the Construction Manager at Risk Contract with

Manhattan Construction Company in the net amount of $140,000 for various items related to heaving at the Public Safety Building

9 Resolution supporting the Widening of Lake Ridge Parkway between Great Southwest Parkway and Joe Pool Lake

Adopted

10 Ordinance amending the FY 2010/2011 Capital Improvement Projects Budget; construction contract with Dake Construction for the Uptown Parking Lot Project in the amount of $344,781.22; material testing in the amount of $6,347; in-house engineering in the amount of $20,687; and 5% construction contract contingency in the amount of $17,239; for a total project cost of $389,055.

Adopted

11 Ordinance amending the FY 2010/2011 Capital Improvements Projects Budget in the amount of $52,874 and Final Reconciliation/Change Order 5 with Circle C Construction on Wildlife Parkway Phase I in the net negative amount of $3,080

Adopted

Items for Individual Consideration

12 Public Hearing and adoption of an ordinance levying paving assessments for improvements to Arkansas Lane (tabled at the 6/21/2011 Council Meeting)

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson moved, seconded by Council Member Swafford to table the Arkansas Lane public hearing to the August 2 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: 9 -

Mayor Charles England; Mayor Pro Tem Ruthe Jackson; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Richard Fregoe; Council Member Greg Giessner; Council Member Mark Hepworth; Council Member Ron Jensen; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Council Member Jim Swafford and Council Member Bill Thorn

13 Annual Board and Commission Appointments

Cathy DiMaggio, City Secretary, read the nominations for board and commission appointments:

Airport Advisory Committee: Wayne Standefer and Mike Sandoval
Building Advisory and Appeals Board: Vance Roper and Lauren Brown
Civil Service Commission: Oliver Thompson
Commission on Aging: Galdin Castro and Dr. John Anyanwu
Historical Commission: Fannyben Patel and Jeanine Walker
Housing and Community Improvement Commission: Felix Imade and Jody Thorne Morris
Housing Finance Corporation: Marshall Sutton and Bill Thorn
Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful: Jan Jackson
Library Board: Ramon Rios and Denise Hardwick

Park Board: Charlie Koerth and Jim Dart
Planning and Zoning Commission: Joe Arredondo and Carol Ann Adams
Public Health Advisory Committee: Tammy Gonzalez and Shirley Jackson
Sports Facilities Development Corporation: Curtis Anderson
Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals: Wendell Davidson, Melinda Polley, Ralph Castro (alternate) and Maricella Lira (alternate)
Dallas County Flood Control District No. 1: Charles Koerth

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson moved to appoint board and commission members as submitted, Council Member Thorn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: 9 -
Mayor Charles England; Mayor Pro Tem Ruthe Jackson; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Richard Fregoe; Council Member Greg Giessner; Council Member Mark Hepworth; Council Member Ron Jensen; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Council Member Jim Swafford and Council Member Bill Thorn

14 Selection of Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member Jensen moved to appoint Jim Swafford as Mayor Pro Tem and Ruthe Jackson as Deputy Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: 9 -
Mayor Charles England; Mayor Pro Tem Ruthe Jackson; Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Richard Fregoe; Council Member Greg Giessner; Council Member Mark Hepworth; Council Member Ron Jensen; Council Member Tony Shotwell; Council Member Jim Swafford and Council Member Bill Thorn

Mayor England thanked Ruthe Jackson and Richard Fregoe for serving as Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem for the past year. Council Member Swafford thanked Council for allowing him to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the coming year. He said he had served as the Mayor Pro Tem many times in the past and was looking forward to a good year and to moving the city forward. Mayor Pro Tem Jackson thanked Council for allowing her to serve again as Deputy Mayor Pro Tem.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Adjournment

Council Member Shotwell invited everyone to attend a showing of "Breakfast at Tiffany's" on July 7 at the Uptown Theatre. He added there would be a "Little Black Dress" contest.

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson said Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck sent his regards to the Council for allowing her to be the head judge for the Arlington 4th of July parade. She added that Grand Prairie is considering a 4th of July Parade for next year.

Mayor England adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the July 19, 2011 meeting.

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Catherine E. DiMaggio, City Secretary