City of Grand Prairie

City Hall Plaza
317 College Street
Grand Prairie, TX

Minutes - Final
City Council

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 | **4:30 PM** | **Council Briefing Room**

Call to Order

Mayor England called the meeting to order at 4:32 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 2010 Census - Presented by Bob O'Neal, ED Director

Bob O'Neal, Economic Development Director, gave an update on statistics from the 2010 Census data. He said Grand Prairie is now 175,396 population, which is a 38% growth from the 2000 Census. The number of housing united grew from 46,425 in 2000 to 62,424 in 2010. In comparison, the DFW area grew by 23%. Grand Prairie is the 15th largest city in State and the fifth largest city in Tarrant County and the fifth largest city in Dallas County. Mr. O'Neal discussed growth by race and by sections of the city: White population declined while the African American and Asian population increased; Hispanic of any race increased from 42,038 in 2000 to 74,893 in 2010. 70% of the growh in Grand Prairie was in Dallas County, while 30% of the growth in 2010 was in Tarrant County. Population north of I20 increased from 102,193 in 2000 to 122,344 in 2010. Population south of I20 increased from 25,234 in 2000 to 53,052 in 2010. Mr. O'Neal showed negative growth area which mainly occurred north of I20.

Mr. O'Neal said he would be providing information to Council on totals by council district boundaries which will be used for redistricting purposes. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Fregoe asked what the ratio of land area is between Dallas and Tarrant County. Mr. O'Neal said he was not sure but would get this information for him. Council Member Jensen asked if District 6 should be smaller to allow for growth in that area. Mr. Postell said the districts have to drawn based not just on raw population, but demographics as well, but individual districts can not be significantly less than the other districts.

2 Municipal Court Update - Presented by Steven Cherry

Steven Cherry, Municipal Court Director, provided statistics on Annual Ticket Count and stated that there had been a decrease in citations issues from 2008/09 to 2009/2010, but revenue stayed strong. He said the estimated ticket count for 2011 is 47,720. Mr. Cherry said that 5,456 citations had been filed for lack of proof of insurance and 2,226 of those were dismissed. Violations for state inspections,

registration, etc. were 8,814, and 4,871 of those were dismissed. There were 20,331 paid fines; 12,235 took deferred disposition; and 2,402 took a drivers safety course. Mr. Cherry said there were 6,000 cases on the attorney docket, with 851 pending cases. There were 4,000 cases on the pretrial docket with 302 pending cases. There were 850 trials by judge/jury set, and 160 actual trials.

Mr. Cherry said that the recent implementation of license plate recognition software has resulted in 901 cleared warrants; $298,851 cleared; $184,271 paid, with $114,680 remaining. Annual Warrant General Fund Revenue in 2009 was $2,011,373 and increased in 2010 to $2,496,158. He said the in-car video systems have assisted the judges during pre-trial to determine guilt which helps reduce a backlog.

Mr. Cherry said Alarm Permits were transferred from the Police Department to Municipal Court in 2007. At present there are 13,460 accounts. In 2008-09 alarm permit revenue was $377,910; in 2009-10 revenue increased to $432,220. Council Member Swafford asked what the fines were for. Mr. Cherry said if an alarm went off and it was a false alarm, you are allowed three free false alarms in one year and after that there is a fine. If a false alarm is received, and it wasn't registered, the fine is waived, but they must register annually. Mr. Hart said the trial process is a testimony to Don Postell, Nancy Robb, Trish Nasworthy. He said beginning prosecutors are working pro bono from law offices to give them trial experience which helps to keep the docket from becoming backlogged.

3 Ruthe Jackson Center - Looking Back over the Last Five Years - Presented by Chip Nami

Chip Nami, Ruthe Jackson Center Manager, thanked the Council and City Manager for their support and said it was a big key to the success of the RJC. Mr. Nami said he has faced many challenges in the last few years with the economic decline. He said corporate business has changed significantly. In order to correct these problems, staff has concentrated on social business (weddings, etc.). Mr. Nami said that an 18% service charge is charged on other items in addition to food and beverage (i.e. room rental, etc.) Staff has also concentrated on church business and tried to book churches in the afternoon or other non-traditional times. He said the RJC will generate $73,000 from churches. He said the Veterans Event Center has 5 veterans groups that meet regularly and through the first 6 months has generated over $14,000 in rental revenue and $2,000 in staffing fees. The biggest part of revenue for the event center is church business.

Agenda Review

Staff asked to table Items 7 and 10 on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Shotwell asked Mr. McCuller about the alley at 721 College Street (Ref. Item 5 Annual Street Sales Tax Program). Mr. McCuller stated that a sewer line is being designed at that location and when the sewer project is completed the alley will be paved.

Executive Session

Mayor England convened an executive session pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Government Code, V.T.C.A. Section 551.071 "Consultation with Attorney," Section 551.072 "Deliberation Regarding Real Property," Section 551.074, "Personnel Matters," and Section 551.087, "Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations."

Recess Meeting

Mayor England adjourned the executive session and recessed the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

6:30 PM City Council Chambers

Mayor England reconvened the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Deacon Andy White, Sunset Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Council Member Jim Swafford led the Pledge of Allegiance to US Flag and to the Texas Flag.

Presentations

4 Employee of the Month - Rich Van, IT Analyst, IT Department

Bob O'Neal, IT Director, introduced Rich Van, IT Analyst, as Employee of the Month for March. City Manager Tom Hart thanked Mr. Van for his dedication to the city and presented him with a city shirt and clock.

Consent Agenda

5 Annual Street Sales Tax Program - FY 2010/2011 Street Maintenance Program as outlined for Grand Prairie Streets, Alleys and Pavement Leveling, utilizing existing approved Price Agreements and Service Contracts.

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Fregoe, to approve Item 5 and 6, table Item 7, approve Items 8 and 9, table Item 10, and approve items 11 through 19 on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

6 Contract with Envirowaste Service Group for Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Cleaning and Inspection of Wastewater and Storm Drain Lines Y#0883 in an amount not to exceed $150,000

7 Final Reconciliation - Sandra Lane, Change Order 4 with Tri-Tech Construction in the net negative amount of $31,513.20 (tabled at the March 1, 2011 Meeting)

8 Johnson Creek Gabion Repair Y#0883 Amendment No. 1 with Halff and Associates in the amount of $54,350

9 Purchase two (2) new Frazer Type I 2011 Dodge Ram 4500, ambulance from Frazer ltd. via Dallas Dodge Chrysler Jeep in Dallas, Tx utilizing the HGAC price agreement at a cost of $288,150 plus $6,780 for tools, equipment and supplies for a total cost of $294,930.

10 Primary Price Agreement Contract for Vehicle Collision Repair and Painting Services with Graff Chevrolet in an amount not to exceed $200,000 and with Grand Prairie Ford as Secondary provider, with an option to renew for four one-year periods (tabled at the 3/1/2011 meeting).

11 Production of a Diverse Native Plant Community for the Wetlands on the City of Grand Prairie's Landfill Site, University of North Texas, at a cost of $49,995.

12 Change Order to Larry O. Hulsey & Co. contract for gas inspection services in the amount of $75,000

13 Change Order No. 2 with Halff Associates in the net amount of $2,100 for Lakeridge Parkway Widening Project Right of Way

14 Ordinance appropriating $29,300 and Ratification of Emergency Wastewater Line Repair at Great Southwest Parkway and Trinity River

Adopted

Enactment No: ORD 9172-2011

15 Resolution adopting an amendment to the Public Improvement District (PID) Policy with regard to expansion of a PID

Adopted

Enactment No: RES 4483-2011

16 Resolution approving Local Transportation Funding Agreement (LPAFA) with TxDOT for Main Street (SH 180) Sidewalks in the amount of $12,290.

Adopted

Enactment No: RES 4484-2011

17 Resolution authorizing the acquisition by purchase or eminent domain of right of way and easement parcels needed for the Lakeridge Parkway Widening Project, G # 36509018

Adopted

Enactment No: RES 4485-2011

18 Resolution authorizing an amendment to the city's Flexible Benefits Plan Document

Adopted

Enactment No: RES 4486-2011

19 Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for, and accept if awarded, a grant from TxDOT for the enforcement of safety belt, child safety seat, speed, intersection traffic control and DWI laws in the amount of $187,793.42.

Adopted

Enactment No: RES 4487-2011

Items for Individual Consideration

20 Assignment and transfer of lease of baseball stadium.

Council Member Swafford stated this item was for the assignment and transfer of the lease of the baseball stadium, currently leased to Ventury Sports. He said staff had been negotiating with a new operator and Council had been given a briefing and a draft Memorandum of Understandingin earlier in the meeting. He said the MOU had not been finalized, but would provide information to draw up a final lease.

Council Member Swafford moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jackson, to approve the assignment and transfer of lease of the baseball stadium. 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

Citizen Comments

Rosemary Bowlby, 214 Dorris Drive, said she had been trying to talk to Council at last meeting about problems she was having with the Municipal court. She said she attended the Briefing Session and completely disagreed with the City Manager about the Municipal Court. Ms. Bowlby said she had been in court three times and twice had nothing but problems, but they finally got it right. She said she should be treated like an honorable citizen of Grand Prairie, not a criminal.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Ruthe Jackson noted that on March 2, 2011, the State would be celebrating its 175th Birthday (Texas Independence Day).

Mayor England adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the March 15, 2011 Council Meeting.

Catherine E. DiMaggio
City Secretary