City of Grand Prairie

Minutes - Final
City Council

Temporary Meeting Place
Grand Prairie ISD
Administration Building
2602 S. Beltline Road
Grand Prairie, Texas

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 | **4:30 PM** | **Grand Prairie ISD Board Room**

Call to Order

Mayor England called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Present 9 -

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

Staff Presentations

1 Discussion of a Neighborhood Police Officer Program - Presented by Police Chief Steve Dye

Prior to Chief Dye's presentation, City Manager Tom Hart asked Fire Chief Clif Nelson to the podium. Chief Nelson stated that he planned to retire October 31, 2012. He expressed his sincere appreciation for Council's support and respect throughout his 34 years of service. Mr. Hart thanked Chief Nelson for giving plenty of notice to enable the city sufficient time to conduct a search. He commended the Chief for implementing the EMS program during Chief Nelson's tenure and for making it the finest in the country. He added there had been very few issues during his tenure and that he has provided great leadership to the department. Mayor England thanked Chief Nelson for his service.

Police Chief Steve Dye stated the department currently has 16 patrol beats and he is in the process of realigning the beats because they have not been changed in many years. He said there will most likely be about 23 beats after realignment. Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO's) will be assigned a permanent geographical area and are not responsible for answering calls for service. Officers will be selected for the program based on high activity and self motivation. Chief Dye said this program is an expansion and decentralization of the Problem Solving Unit. The NPO's will become familiar with their areas and the issues that affect that area. He said this program will necessitate additional staffing of a dozen NPO's which will be phased in over time. Chief Dye asked for Council feedback on the program.

Council Member Hepworth said if the program is phased in slowly, would 3 or 5 officers cover just a portion of the city or would they each cover a larger area. Chief Dye said that initially they would each cover a larger area, because he did not want to exclude any part of the community. Eventually, however, he did not want the geographical area to be larger than two police beats. He said the department is somewhat behind in staffing but the existing staff is doing a great job but would like to be able to offer higher levels of service.

Council Member Shotwell said he likes this idea and over the weekend he was talking to some residents and one of the things that came up was who would they call with

concerns. He said the beat officer changes all the time so they do not know who to contact, but with this program there would be a specific contact. Chief Dye said citizens will know who the NPO is and they will be a liaison with other city departments as well.

Council Member Fregoe said this is an excellent concept and appeared to be an expansion of the storefront concept. He said there used to be locations other than police headquarters. Chief Dye said the NPO's will operate out of the main headquarters, but the storefronts will be maintained, but he did not want the officers to be in the storefront all the time; they should be out and about in the community. He said he would eventually like to have volunteers at the storefronts. He added there will be a storefront at the Paragon Outlet Mall.

Presented

2 Freetown Construction Project Update - Presented by Romin Khavari, City Engineer

Romin Khavari, City Engineer, updated Council on the Freetown Construction Project which includes the Robinson 30" water line and the Carrier 12 " water line. The project is a 1400' extension of Freetown from carrier to Robinson. This will be built in two phases (April to August and then September to April). Mr. Khavari reviewed each of the components of the Freetown project and stated that SJ Louis Construction was the low bidder at $5,032,385, and the total project cost is $5.6 million. He said the funding is available from last year's CIP.

Mayor Pro Tem Swafford said he had requested this project several years ago and had met recently with staff to discuss ingress and egress from Eagle Academy. He said there has been a problem getting students into and out of the school site. He said all driveways come off Freetown and the property backs off of Freetown to Robinson. He said staff is negotiating an alternate access to the academy while the road is under construction. Mr. Swafford added he was very excited to get this project underway.

Presented

Agenda Review

Mayor Pro Tem Swafford said the Finance and Government Committee had reviewed at its March 6 meeting Item 5 (Contract with Freese & Nichols for design of the Midlothian Water Supply Phase I), Item 13 (Contract with SAIC Energy, Environment & Infrastructure for evaluation of Automated Metering Infrastructure); and Item 14 (Request for financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for Rehab of sanitary sewer lines), and recommended adoption by Council.

Mr. Hart said the sale of the Hendrix Building had been closed and the Subway should open by August. He said the Corps of Engineers had asked to meet with the city and they had met at 1:30 p.m. regarding the Joe Pool Lake Dam. He said their study determined the dam had a moderate to severe risk. He cautioned that a lot of this rating is not related to the structure of the dam but related to the downstream potential value loss if there was a breach in the dam. Mr. Hart pointed out this is not the same as the study regarding gas drilling. Council Member Jensen said the Corps plans to have the gas drilling study to the city in September 2012.

Council Member Shotwell said there were 370 tickets sold to the show at the Uptown Theater on Saturday night. He said he had dinner at the Italian restaurant downtown and it was packed. He said several people commented on how nice the downtown

was beginning to look.

Council Member Jensen congratulated the South Grand Prairie basketball team. He said they maintained their #3 State ranking even though they got beat by the #1 ranked team. Mayor England said the team had been invited to attend the next Council Meeting for recognition.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Recess Meeting

Mayor England recessed the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

6:30 PM GPISD Boardroom

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

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ruthe Jackson gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to US Flag and to the Texas Flag was led by Mayor Pro Tem Jim Swafford.

Presentations

3 Employee of the Month - Charles Horton, Inspector, Housing Services Division, introduced by Bill Hills, Housing and Neighborhood Services Director

Bill Hills, Housing and Neighborhood Services Director, introduced Charles Horton, Employee of the Month for March. Mr. Hart thanked Mr. Horton for his dedication to the city and presented him with a city shirt and engraved clock.

Presented

Consent Agenda

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem moved, seconded by Council Member Fregoe, to approve Items 4 through 14 on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

4 Minutes of the February 21, 2012 Meeting

Approved on the Consent Agenda

5 Engineering contract with Freese & Nichols, Inc. for design of the Midlothian

Water Supply Phase I in the amount of $408,500 plus a 5% contingency of $20,425 for a total of $428,925.

Approved on the Consent Agenda

6 Price Agreement Contract for Electrical Maintenance and Repairs from R & R Electric ($250,000), and authorize the City Manager to execute up to four one-year renewals with aggregate price fluctuations of the lesser of up to $50,000 or 25% of the original maximum price so long as sufficient funding is appropriated by the City Council to satisfy the City's obligation during the renewal terms

Approved on the Consent Agenda

7 Price agreement for chlorine cylinders from DPC Industries, Inc. in the amount of $60,507, and ammonia cylinders from Airgas in the amount of $28,123.20; authorize the City Manager to execute up to four one-year renewals with aggregate price fluctuations of the lesser of up to $50,000 or 25% or the original maximum price so long as sufficient funding is appropriated by the City Couoncil to satisfy the City's obligation during the renewal terms for an annual supply of chlorine and ammonia

Approved on the Consent Agenda

8 Purchase two tractor backhoes from RDO Equipment Co. through BuyBoard in the total amount of $162,650

Approved on the Consent Agenda

9 Authorize sale of seven tax foreclosure properties: 2122 San Antonio; 941 SW 4th; 1814 Maple; 314 SW 16th; 2026 Houston; 906 NE 32nd; and 900 Desco

Approved on the Consent Agenda

10 Change Order No. 1 in the amount of $78,967.67 with McMahon Contracting, L.P for Lake Ridge Parkway Widening project.

Approved on the Consent Agenda

11 Ordinance amending the FY 2011/2012 Capital Improvement Projects Budget; construction contract with SJ Louis Construction in the total contract bid amount of $5,032,386 for Freetown Road Phase I, 30" water line along Robinson Road and water main on Carrier Pkwy; Material testing in the amount of $99,969; 5% In-House Engineering in amount of $251,619.50; and 5% contingency in the amount of $251,619.50; for a total requested construction amount of $5,635,594; Oncor Street Lighting in the estimated amount of $5,000 for a total project cost of $5,640,594.

Adopted

12 Ordinance amending the FY 2011/2012 Capital Improvement Projects Budget and award bid to FGM General Contractors for a security fence at the Environmental Quality Field Office in the amount of $49,833, plus a 5% contingency of $2,492

Adopted

13 Ordinance amending the FY 2011/2012 Capital Improvement Projects Budget and a contract with SAIC Energy, Environment & Infrastructure, LLC for assistance in the procurement and evaluation of Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) proposals in the amount of $87,502, authorize an additional 5% contingency of $4,375 for a total of $91,877.

Adopted

14 Resolution requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for rehabilitation of certain sanitary sewer lines

Adopted

Public Hearing on Zoning Applications

15 SU020401A - Specific Use Permit - 101 Josephine Lane (City Council District 1). Second reading of Ordinance on a staff initiated request for consideration of the revocation or renewal of a Specific Use Permit for outside storage of heavy equipment. The site is currently zoned Light Industrial (LI) District and is generally located south of Rock Island Road and east of Gilbert Road. The owner/applicant is Kevin Ball. (On November 28, 2011, the Planning and Zoning Commission vote of 8-0 to recommended that SUP No. 721 be renewed in conformance with the requested appeals and in conformance with the additional readings by City Council for compliance).

Chief City Planner Kevin Lasher stated this was the second reading of the ordinance for this case to ensure that the applicant completed the required paving. He said the storage area has been paved and recommened approval of this case.

Council Member Hepworth moved, seconded by Council Member Thorn, to close the public hearing and approve Case SU020401A. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Citizen Comments

Cheryl Rios, 2451 Beachview Drive, stated that she had some safety concerns with regard to the construction on Lake Ridge Parkway. She said the area where High Hawk traffic merges onto Lake Ridge is unsafe. She also expressed concerns about fire trucks and ambulances leaving the Fire Station on Lynn Creek Parkway can not get anywhere quickly because of the bumper-to-bumper traffic on Lake Ridge. Ms.

Rios said the signage is confusing and summer traffic will exacerbate the existing safety issues.

Adjournment

Council Member Shotwell said approximately 370 people had attended an event at the Uptown Theater and the restaurants downtown were busy. He said he had received many comments about high nice the downtown is looking.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jackson announced that the Lifeline Shelter fundraiser concert would be held Friday, March 9th at Calvary Baptist Church at 7 p.m. She thanked Mayor England for his State of the City presentation (fireside chat). Mrs. Jackson added that she had watched him grow into one of the greatest political leaders she has known.

Council Member Hepworth said he echoed Mrs. Jackson's sentiments. He announced that a 5K run is being held April 7 in honor of Lifeline Shelter and is being sponsored by the First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Shotwell stated that Jose Arrendondo (Planning and Zoning Board Member) went to the Parks Department to get their help on setting up a route for the 5K run and Danny Boykin assisted him in drawing out the route.

Mayor England thanked Lynn McGinley, Chamber President, for making the State of the City a wonderful event.

Mayor England adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the March 20, 2012 meeting.

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Catherine E. DiMaggio, City Secretary