

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSESSION
JANUARY 12, 2005**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Evans, Mayor
Shep Stahel, Mayor Pro Tem
Ken Lambert, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Scott Johnson
Phil Dyer
Sally Magnuson
Steve Stovall
Jean Callison

STAFF

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck, City Manager
Frank Turner, Executive Director
Bruce Glasscock, Executive Director
Rod Hogan, Executive Director
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney
Elaine Bealke, City Secretary

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2005, in the Council Chambers of the Plano Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. All Council Members were present. Mayor Evans spoke to the Council Goals derived from the Council retreat, advised that presentations will be addressed as they are listed in the Bond Referendum Workbook and stated that citizen input will be received as each item is presented.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES PROJECTS

Fire Facilities

Division Fire Chief Owen stated there are seven proposed projects prioritized in the packet grouped in rankings of high, medium, and low. He identified Fire Station 12/Logistics Facility, Fire Station 13, Emergency Operations Center, and Fire Station 4 Expansion as high priority requests; Fire Station Reconfiguration, Engine (additional vehicle only) as medium priority requests; and Security Enhancements as low priority.

Chief Owen responded to the Council that Station 12 will assist in the response area currently covered by other stations, the potential location for Station 12 is at Parker and Coit Roads, Station 11 at the Los Rios extension should be completed February 2006 and further spoke to addressing security issues by installing card readers at the entrance doors to the stations.

Chief Owen advised that the Fire Department prioritized the rankings of the projects, spoke to the possibility that if this is a four or five year program it is the recommendation of the Fire Department that all projects listed here be placed in the program and that placement of the stations be ranked as a high priority.

J. D. Williams, citizen of the City, recommended that the proposed 2% allocation for public art projects not be added to the fire stations and that this cost be broken out.

Library Facilities

Director of Libraries Baumbach spoke to the proposed remodeling of the Haggard Library basement, furnishings for all library facilities, and the proposed movement of the Genealogy, Local History, Texana collection located at Harrington Library into the basement of Haggard Library. Ms. Baumbach responded to the Council that additional computers can always be utilized but stated this is not part of the bond request, and that longevity potential is taken into consideration when furniture is purchased.

Other Facilities

Animal Shelter Expansion

Director of Environmental Health Collins spoke to adding surgical, prep and recovery areas for the animals in addition to dog/cat indoor/outdoor runs, and kennels. He responded to the Council that sufficient land is available for outdoor runs at this location, and that installation of security items is in progress and not included in this proposal. City Manager Muehlenbeck responded to the Council that the County Animal Shelter will be funded from the County's General Fund already obtained. Mr. Collins further responded to the Council regarding operation and maintenance procedures for the County and stated that animal services for the City of Plano is not included in the County's plan.

Radio System Infrastructure Replacement

Director of Public Safety Timmons spoke to the existing voice communications system currently operating for Police and Fire in the region, the discontinuance by the manufacturer of production and support in 2009, and to the need for replacement of this system. He responded to the Council that the new system should last 15 years, spoke to the competitive bidding process, and stated that homeland security assistance dollars are not anticipated towards this system with regard to the day-to-day operation. City Manager Muehlenbeck advised the Council that a report will come forward on the January 24 Council agenda regarding acquisition of Homeland Security funds. He spoke to removal of this request from the bond program and considering instead a certificate of obligation to be paid off in a much shorter period of time. Mr. Timmons advised the Council regarding participation from other cities for the voice communication system and to a 2/3 voting share for the City of Plano as well as discretion and responsibility for the system with the other cities paying a 1/3 share. He stated that air time is assessed for the other cities.

Redevelopment Opportunities (Land Acquisition)

City Engineer Upchurch advised regarding funding for the acquisition of property and building infrastructure in support of redevelopment projects and stated that the goal is to acquire properties, and then redevelop and sell the properties to developers. He responded to the Council regarding recent acquisitions that would fit into this type of funding to serve as an investment in properties. Council Member Dyer and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lambert spoke to concern with placing this project on twenty-year funding. Mr. Upchurch advised that developer repayment is not always immediate and having the funds available is the goal. City Manager Muehlenbeck stated that repayment will not always be immediate from the developer but that bond payoff will be before twenty-years. Executive Director Turner spoke to the hope to have secured a developer and project to be underway within 12 months for Rice Field and stated the need for a revolving fund for redevelopment type projects. Mr. Lambert spoke to use of five-year certificates of obligation for five year funding needs. The City Manager spoke to possibly setting up a fund balance at the end of the year from unencumbered funds for this purpose but spoke regarding exercising caution in the ability of the City to secure funds and further recommended that methods be closely looked at in order to determine the best means. Mayor Evans recommended this be placed on a list to revisit.

Environmental Education Building

Environmental Waste Services Manager Nevil spoke to requesting funding for building an Environmental Education building, parking, and restrooms to be located at the Environmental Discovery Gardens at Parkway Service Center. She spoke to the long term vision, volunteer and citizen participation at the center, and new programs in the works to utilize the building. Ms. Nevil responded to the Council that the location of this building was thoroughly looked into and that this (Environmental Discovery Gardens) better fits the intent.

Sonja Hammar, citizen of the City, spoke to financial contributions to the Environmental Discovery Gardens and Community Garden Program proposed by the Junior League of Plano. Ms. Nevil responded that the Junior League is proposing to operate the Community Gardens aspect and development aspect of this project/program but is not looking at funding participation.

Mayor Evans and Council Member Callison advised that they are stepping down from the following item due to the appearance of possible conflicts of interests.

Science Technology Discovery Center

Jeri Chambers, SciTech Board of Directors Member, spoke to the 501(3)c organization, the classroom functioning building science center with parking, and to the preferred site being a property located north of the George Bush Turnpike east of Coit Road.

Ms. Chambers spoke to the potential for educational, recreational, and cultural contributions to the community, and to positive peer evaluation of the project for the City.

SciTech Board President Laura Curran spoke to economic benefits that can be expected from the proposed project, SciTech Discovery Board of Directors commitment to raising funds, and to the success of public/private partnerships. She spoke to events that might be held, the request to the City for funding the operating budget as being small, and to supporting the cultural vision of the City.

Ms. Curran responded to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lambert that they are in discussions with the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) to loan or lease the property and that they would retain ownership of the property. City Attorney Wetherbee advised that the City would be leasing the property from UTD and spoke to lease particulars. Ms. Chambers responded that lease payment funding will be raised by the SciTech Discovery Center. Ms. Curran spoke to a letter of support from UTD and also stated that a request has been made to the state to help set up an endowment to cover lease payments, and that fund raising will begin immediately. Ms. Curran responded that they have talked with the Plano Independent School District (PISD) and UTD and will be talking soon to Collin County Community College but have not talked with other educational entities in other cities for the long term. She stated that while this will serve all of Collin County it will be a cultural attraction and a resource for Plano. She responded to the Council that resource contributions have been discussed with PISD, they are encouraged by the UTD commitment, and that the City of Plano is identified for funding. Mr. Lambert spoke to the potential of a tax increase as a result of this bond request, keeping things to a minimum, and to additional dollars per year to cover funding of the capital reserve depreciation fund to be paid out of the General Fund.

Council Member Stovall spoke to the educational quality of this proposal, and asked where are the other aspects of the community who might support this project. Ms. Curran advised that they do expect to enter into discussion with other educational institutions and spoke to possible scenarios for participation and to this also being a cultural attraction to augment classroom learning.

J. D. Williams, citizen of the City, spoke to the preferred site reference not being significant and to preference for a specific site, to this project not being rated as a high priority and to the timing being wrong. Sonja Hammar, spoke to this being a good and commendable project, SciTech being separated from the Junior League, and to incorporation being less than one year. She spoke to skepticism regarding hypothetical situations, whether or not private funds have been raised towards the project, not being site specific, and to all of this reflecting problems for the tax payers when voting. Ms. Hammar recommended that this request be site specific and located in the City of Plano and further spoke to rising costs of the project now and in the future.

Jack Lagos, citizen of the City, spoke to being site and City specific, advalorem tax paying for this project, and asked how this is tied down to being City specific.

City Attorney Wetherbee responded that this would be done by stating it in the proposition, and that this project, by direction of this Council, could be located in this City and that another Council could direct to change it by ordinance.

John Hunter, citizen of the City, spoke to his participation in the community, visiting other science facilities, enthusiasm of youth, and to his support of the SciTech Center whether or not his taxes are increased.

Trey Cure, citizen of the City, spoke to growing up in the PISD and to the need for this project, visiting another science facility, and to his support of the proposal.

Heather Webb, citizen of the City, spoke to volunteering at SciTech in the summer and enjoying the facility, different ages enjoying the facility, and to support of the proposal.

Ann Boswell, citizen of the City, spoke to living long term in the City, allowing the citizens to decide this issue, the site specific issue being Hwy 190 and Coit Road, wise use of tax dollars, and to the tax implication being less than \$4 per household per year. She stated that this is an opportunity for growth in science and technology in the City and supports the proposal.

Toni Jenkins, Collin County Community College Executive Vice President and SciTech Advisory Board member, spoke to the hard work done by the board, CCCC in-kind and volunteer support over the summer, today's students not being prepared in science and math at the college level, ways to excite students, and to support of the recommendation to offer this to the voters. She responded to the Council that CCCC will continue to provide volunteers and spoke to many collaborative opportunities for in-kind support and for volunteers. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lambert spoke to concerns with the City being left with the financial responsibility should things not work out as opposed to being joined in a financial partnership with other entities.

Juan Gonzalez, citizen of the City and UTD faculty member, spoke to opportunities for interaction, being the recipient of student deficiencies in science and math, and to his support of this request.

Heritage Farmstead

Ted Peters, citizen of the City and Executive Director of the Heritage Farmstead Museum, spoke to placement of a perimeter fence around the farmstead, the history of the farmstead, and to complaints received regarding excessive noise at the site. He spoke to the need for a compatible fence around the perimeter, and reviewed exterior landscaping design plans. Mr. Peters responded to the Council that work has been and will be done to keep with the historical character of the Farmstead, spoke to keeping the site secluded away from traffic, and to keeping a part of 1890 in Plano. Mayor Evans asked that screening and landscaping be identified along with the fence as the definition of the project.

Memorial Park

Kathie Pritchett, citizen of the City, spoke to appreciation of the Park Department and the City Council for consideration of this project. She spoke to plans for additional parking at the proposed site, the existing Memorial site at the Municipal Center, needing a quiet retreat area to remember those who have sacrificed for our freedom, and to providing this tribute for the veterans.

Peter Eldridge, VFW Post 4380 member, spoke to soldiers serving their country, heroes in the City of Plano receiving the medal of honor, the importance of recognizing veterans, and being in support of placing this as a higher priority for the bond referendum.

Alex Schell, resident of the City, spoke to previous veterans in the community, and in support of this request.

Other Items

Dan Jenkins, citizen of the City, spoke to the importance of the goals of the City, and to the Chisholm Park area (Big Lake Park at the Chisholm Trail) and to the need for work done and requested that this project be placed at a higher priority. He spoke to the bridges in the park being Street funded items and requested that they be enhanced with stone and railings and have greater accessibility and safety. Mayor Evans advised that this is a street improvement rather than a bridge. City Manager Muehlenbeck spoke to previous recommendations several years ago on bridge improvements that did not go forward.

The Council recessed the worksession at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened back into open session at 8:29 p.m.

Park Improvement Projects

Director of Parks and Recreation Wendell spoke to consideration of the Park Master Plan, Council goals, Department Strategic Plan and completion of those projects for which funding was received in the 2001 bond referendum. He spoke to finalizing the acquisition of parks in the system, reviewing projects with impact on the greatest number of citizens and prioritization by the Parks and Recreation Planning Board. Mr. Wendell went on to review the preliminary project list in priority order which included the development of the Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve advising that this issuance would provide funding to begin construction with a goal of opening in the Summer of 2007, Athletic Field Improvements to add items such as shade structures and amenities to existing fields and Trail Connectors throughout the City as well as other cities. He spoke to the Bicycle Transportation System which includes a federal transportation grant and matching monies to be used particularly in the downtown area and responded that funds are primarily for signage, a downtown route along the DART corridor and both on-street and off-street trails. Mr. Wendell spoke to signage alerting motorists regarding on-street bicycle routes.

Mr. Wendell stated that Archgate Park Phase II will begin construction this year and funding is to complete the park; Park Land Acquisition is for various locations throughout the City and includes a south central community park; Neighborhood Park Improvements will fund parking lots at Coyote Creek Park, Parkwood Green Park and Sunset Park along with other site improvements; Park Improvements would cover community and large City parks and Aquatic Center Renovations to cover improvements to mechanical equipment and modernization. He spoke to the Senior Center/Carpenter Park Expansion and to trends in aging indicating that it would be more advantageous to have areas for seniors and programs integrated with a larger facility. He spoke to the Maintenance Facility to support the Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve.

Mr. Wendell stated that medium priority items include lighting at PISD Tennis Courts and spoke to meeting the needs for courts in neighborhoods by working with the school district; development of Legacy Trail from Spring Creek Parkway to Preston Road; enhancements along Chisholm Trail; and a Special Use Facility (equestrian arena) to possibly be located at the Chaparral Road athletic site. He reviewed Pecan Hollow Golf Course Renovations and spoke to a cart barn and replacement of greens. Mr. Wendell responded that while use has increased, it is not at the level it was 5-6 years ago. He spoke to the White Rock Creek Acquisitions and to being prepared when property is available and responded to the Council stating that attempts would be made to acquire all of the flood plain (35 acres) along with as much non-flood plain as possible (65 acres) to provide room for parking, structures, pavilions, etc. and further stated that the site would have access on Spring Creek Parkway. Mr. Wendell advised that Mr. Karahan would present information regarding the Bishop Road Median Landscape project later in the meeting.

Mr. Wendell addressed items of lower priority including the Chaparral Road Athletic Site Phase I, stating it is expected to evolve into a multi-use site and that it contains 119 acres; and Memorial Park which will contain recognition areas for local citizens where a brick/plaque may be located, a garden with quotes and teachings of international figures and a third area to honor veterans of Plano. He stated that the scope of the project will depend on participation by the private sector and Council Member Stovall spoke in support of the project and regarding contributions that might be received. Mr. Wendell spoke to the Botanical Gardens being focused on native plants and to the Tennis Center #2 Land and Development projects.

Sonja Hammar, citizen of the City, spoke to including site specifics on requested items and to keeping the Botanical Gardens in the City. Mr. Wendell responded that Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve will be considered for the gardens. City Manager Muehlenbeck responded regarding the Bishop Road Median Landscape Project stating that the funds requested are for the amenities and not the street itself. Ms. Hammar stated concern with spending public dollars for private property and spoke regarding the general population not utilizing the area. She stated concern regarding an offer to lease the property long-term to the City.

City Manager Muehlenbeck stated he requested the Parks and Recreation Department meet with Mr. Karahan to ensure that the property was either deeded to the City or that a long-term lease be established so that none of it would be privately owned. Ms. Hammar stated disappointment that single member districts would not be on the charter ballot.

Michael Kendall, of Kendall Landscape Architecture, reviewed the vision for the Bishop Road Median Landscape project as it builds on the success of the Legacy Town Center and expresses the history of the area's relationship to Shawnee Trail. He described the sculptures, designed by Robert Summers which include three horse and rider pieces and nineteen longhorns, and to the signature views to be created within the project.

Fehmi Karahan spoke regarding the opportunity to have \$7 million worth of artwork become part of the City, to the acquisition and to displaying the pieces in such a way as to tie into Plano's history. He spoke to the importance of the Legacy Town Center and its reputation, to the generation of tax dollars, and the benefits enjoyed by other cities to encourage development. Mr. Karahan spoke to the project being a partnership and responded that the pieces will be in a public area and that the City will own them. Council Member Stovall spoke to the public/private partnership, the location becoming a "destination" and regarding neighborhood park fees. Mr. Karahan advised the Council that the north side of Legacy Drive will develop in a similar manner as the south side with multi-family units and 500-600,000 square feet of retail spaces/offices. He spoke to the cemetery being a historical landmark, the challenge of blending it into the development, the opportunity to implement artwork and to concentrating the pieces in small groups with illumination provided for each. Mr. Karahan spoke to the accessibility of the site and regarding acquisition of the pieces. Mr. Wendell responded that when the Park Fee Program was established in 1993, this area was excluded as it was not contemplated to develop residentially and Mr. Karahan spoke to asking the Legacy Association regarding possible maintenance arrangements.

Street Improvements

City Engineer Upchurch spoke to the categorization of items into those that are done on an ongoing basis, and those that are Collin County/TxDOT/COG commitments and rehabilitation projects identified by the Public Works Department. He advised that the list of new roads is getting smaller due to build out, spoke regarding consideration of the overall timeframe of projects, work done to obtain additional funding in the Collin County bond program and to the effect a delay may have on such funding. Mr. Upchurch requested the Council's consideration regarding potential funding for S.H. 121.

Mr. Upchurch responded to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, stating that with this program approximately 99% of the six-lane roadways will be completed. Mr. Upchurch stated he will confirm the remaining gaps and advised that with regard to Shiloh Road, construction will begin in June/July, that one-half the money is allocated at this time and further stated that two lanes from Park Boulevard to Parker Road will not be constructed until traffic volumes are reached on the existing two-lane connection.

Mayor Pro Tem Stahel questioned the expansion of Shiloh Road from 14th Street to Park Boulevard to six lanes and requested reconsideration. City Manager Muehlenbeck advised the Council that Staff would review the 1991 resolution regarding construction of Shiloh Road to determine whether or not to include that portion in the bond propositions.

Council Member Johnson clarified that when there are county, TxDOT and COG commitments, the City will share the costs with the other entity.

Mayor Evans spoke to a meeting with the mayors of Frisco, Allen and McKinney and advised that due to the costs to the cities of Allen and McKinney and the S.H. 121/US Highway 75 interchange, they cannot agree as to the funding of S.H. 121 and further stated that the City of Plano should remove \$12 million in funding from bond consideration. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lambert spoke to the future possibility that the cities could get together for a bond issuance.

Mr. Upchurch stated that Traffic Signalization speaks to the adding of lights, Signalization Upgrade is the upgrading of poles and that Computerized Signal System is to provide additional software upgrades and video detection/observation. He spoke to the funding in place for changing out signals, to modification as technology improves, and to making video detection/intersection improvements as signals are replaced.

Sonja Hammar, citizen of the City, requested the Council take time to consider which items are truly necessary and look at the perspective of the citizens and what can be afforded.

Mayor Evans spoke to forwarding any questions to Staff and to coming back for another session and City Attorney Wetherbee advised that the "cut off" would be February 14. Mayor Pro Tem Stahel spoke to forwarding questions no later than January 17 to provide time for response. Mayor Evans spoke to scheduling a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on January 26, 2005 to include Council discussion and only those presentations requested. The City Council and City Manager Muehlenbeck thanked Staff and the boards/commissions for their efforts as well as citizens for providing their input.

Nothing further was discussed. Mayor Evans adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Pat Evans, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Elaine Bealke, City Secretary