

PLANO CITY COUNCIL
Special Called Session
August 31, 2011

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Phil Dyer, Mayor
Pat Miner, Mayor Pro Tem
Lissa Smith, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Ben Harris
André Davidson
James Duggan
Patrick Gallagher
Lee Dunlap

STAFF

Bruce Glasscock, City Manager
Frank Turner, Deputy City Manager
LaShon Ross, Deputy City Manager
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney
Diane Zucco, City Secretary

Mayor Dyer convened the Council into the Special Called Session on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 5:01 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Plano Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Member Harris.

A second public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 1.66 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). (First public hearing conducted August 22, 2011.)

Mayor Dyer opened the Public Hearing. Employee Mark Kamenish requested the Council consider further cost savings through changes in web browser access and installing more native plantings on City properties. No one else appeared to speak for or against the item. The Public Hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 2011-8-20: To order a Special Election to be held on November 8, 2011 in and throughout the City of Plano, Texas for the purpose of submitting propositions to the qualified voters of the City for amendments to the City Charter as follows: Provide for the election of City Council Members from three to four year terms and reduce the number of terms served from three to two and apply the term limits to any full term served; provide changes to the Municipal Court to allow the City Council to select all judges and decide terms of office and grounds for removal, and expand powers of the court; provide a single proposition to correct non-substantive errors, clarify meanings, correct paragraph numbering; conform to requirements of federal and state law, remove redundant provisions otherwise provided for in state or federal law; and revise references to repealed or obsolete provisions of federal or state law or city charter; designating polling locations for such Special Election; ordering Notice of Election to be given as prescribed by law in connection with such election; and providing an effective date. (Public hearings conducted on August 8, 2011, August 13, 2011, and August 22, 2011).

City Manager Glasscock spoke to recent information received from Collin County, the “fluid” nature of the situation and the upcoming deadline of September 7, 2011 to order a charter election. City Secretary Zucco spoke to there being a minimal impact on the City of Plano should several entities move to Denton County for election services, the requirement for a Memorandum of Understanding to cover the costs of voting equipment should Plano wish to hold a May 2012 election whether or not it takes place, and the uncertainty of pricing. She advised that a proposal will be presented by the Elections Administrator to the County Commissioners to continue dividing centralized costs by the number of jurisdictions holding a full contract, but to divide programming costs based on races, precincts and candidates. Ms. Zucco stated that full pricing alternatives will not be available until September 19 and spoke to possible requests by other entities to change polling locations for May elections.

Ms. Zucco advised that if the City were to move to four-year staggered terms in odd-numbered years, Collin County would provide written assurance that no costs for other entities’ decisions would be passed to the City, Plano would determine polling locations and a charter election would be required. She spoke to the potential for petition-driven elections in May of even-numbered years and possible consideration of retaining the current three-year structure with a reduction in polling locations. Ms. Zucco advised that should petitions be brought forward for an even-year cycle, the City could request services from the county, contract machines themselves, or try to postpone the election to November.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Smith spoke to the lack of clear direction until later in September and stated concern regarding reducing polling locations. Council Member Dunlap stated concern regarding reducing polling locations and spoke to informing citizens of costs should a petition be brought forward in an even-numbered year. He spoke to the benefits of four-year terms and in support of a charter election to change the Council terms of office. Mayor Pro Tem Miner stated support for two, four-year terms of office. The Council spoke to the possibility of opting back into services with Collin County if necessary for even-numbered years and other items for voter consideration on the charter election ballot.

Upon a motion made by Council Member Dunlap and seconded by Council Member Duggan, the Council voted 7-0 to order a Special Election to be held on November 8, 2011 in and throughout the City of Plano, Texas for the purpose of submitting propositions to the qualified voters of the City for amendments to the City Charter; and further to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-8-20.

Nothing further was discussed. Mayor Dyer adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Phil Dyer, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, City Secretary