

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL  
PRELIMINARY OPEN MEETING  
January 9, 2012**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

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 PRESENT**

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

Mayor Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., Monday, January 9, 2012, in Training Room A of the Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present. Mayor Dyer then stated that the Council would retire into Executive Session in compliance with Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, in order to consult with an attorney and receive Legal Advice and discuss Litigation, Section 551.071; and to receive information regarding Economic Development, Section 551.087 for which a certified agenda will be kept in the office of the City Secretary for a period of two years as required.

Mayor Dyer reconvened the meeting back into the Preliminary Open Meeting at 5:54 p.m.

**Consideration and action resulting from Executive Session discussion**

No items were brought forward.

**Discussion and Direction Regarding Health Care Innovation Challenge**

Fire Chief Esparza spoke to the impact on departmental resources and area hospitals when individuals utilize the 911 system for non-emergency medical responses. He advised regarding plans to apply for a federal grant to fund development of community paramedics who will respond and offer educational assistance and referrals. Chief Esparza spoke to implementation of a three-year program with the goal of management provided by hospitals thereafter. He reviewed plans for implementation utilizing experienced paramedics and back-filling positions. City Manager Glasscock responded to the Council regarding the options for cost reductions after three years including staff reduction by attrition. Council Member Dunlap spoke to development of a strategy should funding be discontinued. The Council stated a consensus in directing Staff to make application for the grant.

## **Discussion and Direction Regarding Chase Oaks Bike Trail**

Director of Parks and Recreation Fortenberry spoke regarding the bicycle trail system, developed in 1985, updated in 1993 and 2001, and included in the City's Comprehensive Plan (Transportation Plan). She reviewed the history of development in the area of the Chase Oaks Golf Course and the lack of a connection. Ms. Fortenberry advised that the City of Allen has made plans to renovate the course and spoke to meetings held with area homeowners and trail advocates to develop options for trail connection. She spoke to homeowner concerns related to trail safety, loss of privacy, loss of views, increased crime/vandalism and loss of property values. Ms. Fortenberry spoke to trail advocates who supported a trail connection with park-like setting and cited roadway safety concerns. She advised regarding safety concerns related to locating a trail in close proximity and parallel to the fairway. Ms. Fortenberry spoke to potential screening and the impact on homeowner views and the recommendation provided by the Parks and Recreation Planning Board for a street route. She spoke in support of the recommendation, the City maintaining the easement through the golf course, labeling the street route as an interim connection, requesting grading during the course renovation, leaving the current strip of trail in place, potentially widening the sidewalk and rounding corners for easier turns and providing signage for way finding.

Mayor Pro Tem Miner spoke regarding discussions with area homeowners and Ms. Fortenberry advised that the cost for a concrete trail connection on the golf course (without screening) would be approximately \$25,000; a portion of an existing water feature will be filled in allowing for trail placement; golf course construction is being completed by the City of Allen; and if the City of Plano were to install a retaining wall, preparation would be done to ensure stability.

Council Members Gallagher and Duggan spoke in support of continuing the trail through the golf course without artificial screening citing safety issues on streets and courses where homes are in close proximity to fairways. Ms. Fortenberry responded to Council Member Dunlap regarding the width of the easement, zoning and advised that the course is not within a flood plain. He spoke to the potential that the City of Allen could develop residences in the area.

Council Member Davidson spoke to the aesthetics of a golf course trail, but stated concerns regarding the proximity to the fairway. She spoke to street parking/blind spots and developing markings directing riders to the sidewalk. Ms. Davidson spoke to potentially widening the sidewalk. Mayor Dyer spoke in support of the on-street recommendation, to citizens riding along roadways to access the bike trail and the location being in close proximity to the trails end. Ms. Fortenberry advised regarding homeowner attendance at meetings and the lack of objection by other area homeowners. Parks and Recreation Planning Board Chair Kayci Brooks Prince advised regarding their consideration process and unanimous recommendation.

Mayor Dyer stated the Council's consensus directing Staff to move forward with the board's recommendation for an on-street trail and pursue a widening of the sidewalk.

### **Comprehensive Monthly Financial Report**

Director of Finance Tacke advised that the November 2011 report finds General Fund revenues up slightly as a percentage of budget as compared to last year while Water and Sewer revenues are down slightly. She stated that actual General Fund revenues are up \$5.1 million, primarily due to an increase in ad valorem taxes and an increase in sales tax resulting from an audit adjustment. Ms. Tacke advised that General Fund expenditures are slightly lower as a percent of budget with overall personnel services down due to the timing of the final September 2011 payroll and year-end accrual entries. She further spoke to Water & Sewer expenditures up slightly when compared to the prior year, increases in both Municipal Drainage revenues and expenses, and advised that the unemployment rate is down to 6.9%.

### **Council items for discussion/action on future agendas**

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Smith requested information regarding car allowances and Mayor Dyer spoke to receiving information regarding bicycle route signage. City Manager Glasscock advised that Staff is reviewing signage and will provide information to the Council.

### **Consent and Regular Agendas**

No items were discussed.

Nothing further was discussed. Mayor Dyer adjourned the Preliminary Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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**Phil Dyer, MAYOR**

ATTEST

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Diane Zucco, City Secretary