

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL**  
**Worksession**  
**August 7, 2013**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor  
Lissa Smith, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ben Harris, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
André Davidson  
Jim Duggan  
Patrick Gallagher  
David Downs

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT**

Pat Miner

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

Mayor LaRosiliere convened the Council into the Worksession on Wednesday, August 7, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Senator Florence Shapiro Council Chambers of the Plano Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present.

**Opening Remarks**

City Manager Glasscock spoke to Staff review of those requests for in-kind services only and funding recommendations for Dickens in Historic Downtown, Holiday Lights in Downtown, All-American 4<sup>th</sup>, Plano Christmas Parade, Sunset at Memorial Park, Independence Day Parade, and Downtown Feasti-val. The Council concurred with the recommendations.

**Funding Requests**

Buffington Community Service Grants

Community Relations Commission Chair Valente advised that the fund was established in 1998 to address community needs and provide for programs addressing short-term, urgent economic assistance or care services; offer immediate relief of a crisis impacting the physical and/or mental health of Plano residents; and meet a consolidated plan goal. He advised that grants are limited to 50% of any agency's budget by state law and are available to non-profit agencies that have been in operation for three years or more. Mr. Valente reviewed data and spoke to the significant increases in the City's poverty, homelessness and unemployment levels.

Mr. Valente thanked commissioners and Staff for their efforts and advised that of the 31 applications for funding, 6 were funded with federal monies (\$195,000) and 20 with Buffington Community Service funds (\$385,533 or \$1/capita plus a one-time allocation of \$120,623). He reviewed the financial challenges for grants, advising that funds were only available for 50.6% of the requests. Mr. Valente reviewed the types of programs that will be supported by recommended funding including: at-risk youth; home-delivered meal services for seniors; senior wellness/healthcare; clothing for school children; housing for homeless; services for battered/abused women and children; general medical/dental care; crisis counseling and/or intervention; financial assistance; and information and referral services. He further spoke to coordination among organizations reducing duplication of efforts.

Mr. Valente responded to the Council regarding the reduction in federal monies and the resultant shifting of some organizations from CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) to Buffington funding. He further advised that applicants must demonstrate that resources are spent for the benefit of City of Plano residents and spoke to evaluation of the services of each organization. Mr. Glasscock advised that the one-time allocation (\$120,623) came from funds left in a discontinued social services donation program and that recipients were advised that levels will return to the per-capita level in 2014. Mayor LaRosiliere thanked the board for their efforts and the Council stated concurrence in supporting the recommendations.

#### Presentation of Cultural Affairs Commission

Cultural Affairs Commission Chair Safir thanked commissioners and Staff for their efforts and spoke regarding the grant application process including electronic submittal, attention to in-kind goods and services, and new guidelines related to IRS standards. He advised that of the applications reviewed, two did not meet minimum scores and that funding is recommended for four event/urban-town centers programs in the amount of \$35,951 from the General Fund, \$184,300 from the Hotel/Motel Fund for the Balloon Festival and 17 major arts groups in the amount of \$768,468.

Mr. Safir advised that the Art & Drama Centre Theatre is a children's program and clarified funding for the Plano Children's Theatre. He further responded to the Council, advising that with regard to the reduction for the Plano Community Band, the Commission was bound by the guideline standards of eligible expenses which include only professional services, and not general volunteer hours. Tommy Giulbert, Conductor of the Plano Community Band, provided a history of the organization and spoke to recognitions/invitations received, free concerts for the community, volunteer nature of the group and the reduction in funding jeopardizing the organization. Jennifer Grace, Plano Community Band board member, spoke to other organizations that collect ticket revenue, the status of members as volunteers rather than professionals and requested consideration of an allocation for groups that are clearly volunteer in nature or providing additional funding to the Cultural Affairs Commission for discretionary awards.

Mayor LaRosiliere and Council Member Davidson spoke regarding evaluating groups with uniformity. Ms. Grace responded to the Council, advising that the group applies for funding from the City of Richardson and has instituted other measures including sponsorships. She advised that of the prior year's budget approximately 75% was provided for by the City of Plano. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harris stated agreement with the recommendations of the commission rather than making adjustments that would impact other groups.

Council Member Duggan spoke in support of the group and regarding their volunteerism. Mayor LaRosiliere spoke to grants supporting a group rather than providing a majority of their funding. Mr. Safir responded to Council Member Downs regarding another group impacted by the revised guidelines and Mr. Downs spoke to agreement with the recommendation rather than making an adjustment. He spoke to ensuring guidelines are communicated to applicants. Council Member Gallagher spoke to the Plano Community Band representing the City. Mayor Pro Tem Smith spoke in support of accepting the recommendations. Mayor LaRosiliere stated the Council's consensus to move forward as recommended.

#### Presentation of Heritage Commission

Heritage Commission Chair Graley spoke to funding for these grants coming from hotel/motel taxes and earmarked for items that will build tourism in Plano and benefit the hospitality industry. He spoke to recommended grants covering operations/maintenance and projects for the Heritage Farmstead Museum (\$530,000), the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation, Inc. (\$221,568) and the North Texas Masonic Historical Museum and Library (\$16,900). Mr. Graley advised regarding the cost estimate for a request to replace a canopy at the Interurban Railway Museum and Comprehensive Planning Manager Schwarz stated that should funds be left unspent, they may be reallocated. The Council concurred with recommendations as presented.

#### Council Items and Issues for Discussion

No items were considered

Nothing further was discussed. Mayor LaRosiliere adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

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**Harry LaRosiliere, MAYOR**

ATTEST:

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Diane Zucco, City Secretary