

PLANO CITY COUNCIL
August 26, 2010

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Phil Dyer, Mayor
Lee Dunlap, Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Miner, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Ben Harris
André Davidson
Lissa Smith
Harry LaRosiliere
Jean Callison

STAFF

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck, City Manager
Frank Turner, Deputy City Manager
Bruce Glasscock, Deputy City Manager
LaShon Ross, Deputy City Manager
Mark Israelson, Assistant City Manager
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney
Diane Zucco, City Secretary

The Plano City Council met informally at 7:06 p.m., Thursday, August 26, 2010, at Plano Sports Authority StarCenter, 6500 Preston Meadow, Plano, Texas. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Member Callison. Mayor Dyer welcomed those in attendance and introduced Council and Staff. He spoke regarding the structure of the Council where all members represent citizens across the City.

FY 2010-2011 Budget

Director of Budget and Research Rhodes-Whitley spoke to the \$15 million deficit projected on March 3, 2010 and \$14 million deducted by Council during worksessions. She spoke to the loss of 129 full-time and 17 part-time positions, a \$5 million decline in ad valorem taxes, the City Manager's recommendation of a 1.49 cent tax increase for debt, and Council's direction of no tax increase resulting in a lower bill for the average homeowner. Ms. Rhodes-Whitley spoke to increases scheduled by the North Texas Municipal Water District and responded to questions advising citizens that the City does not control homeowner association fees, the deficit for 2011-12 is \$15-16 million and stated there have been some service reductions, but that nothing has been eliminated. City Manager Muehlenbeck advised that the City has 2,000 employees.

Economic Development Progress Report

Plano Economic Development Board Director Bane spoke to creating job opportunities, diversifying the economic base to cushion against economic shock, and increasing the tax base. She spoke to contributions made by companies and efforts of the Economic Development Board through outreach and recruitment; retention and expansion; marketing and redevelopment. Ms. Bane reviewed recent projects, industry targets, utilization of the web site, challenges and opportunities. She responded to questions, advising that 11% of the City's business sector is manufacturing, and spoke to use of the incentives in capturing business and the benefit of the City's nearly 50% commercial development. She spoke to review of the number of employee positions when companies are in contract for incentives and to disbursing grants among companies of different sizes.

Community Investment Projects (CIP); Street Repairs/Improvements/Resurfacing including Review of Park Boulevard Corridor Intersection Improvements

Director of Public Works/Engineering Upchurch spoke to erosion control efforts at various locations, replacement of screening walls, drainage improvements, alley replacements and repair of aging infrastructure taking up a large portion of the Community Investment Program. He spoke to future intersection improvements along the Park Boulevard Corridor and responded to citizens, advising that traffic analysis indicates improvements can be made to these locations, monies coming from federal funding (80%) and Collin County (20%) and spoke to the timeframe for construction and procedures for right-of-way acquisition. Mr. Upchurch spoke to speed limits/traffic signal locations determined by traffic studies and stated that timing of improvements to Independence Parkway/Park Boulevard will be reviewed.

Carpenter Recreation Center Renovations

Director of Parks and Recreation Fortenberry spoke to the opening of the Carpenter Recreation Center in 1990, approval of bond referendums in 2005/2009 for renovation and removal of construction of a warm-water pool due to operations/maintenance costs. She spoke to additions of a 5,000 square-foot fitness area, new locker rooms, family changing room and additional parking as well as renovations to the restrooms, gymnasium viewing area, exercise rooms, and lobby. Ms. Fortenberry spoke to future additions of the warm-water pool and outdoor skate park. She advised regarding construction costs, beginning in November with a target completion of 2011. Ms. Fortenberry responded to citizens, advising regarding flooring replacement, retention of the indoor track and stated that the building will be closed during construction. She spoke to future expansion of weight rooms at other locations and DART's approval of \$50,000 funding towards the Senior Rides Program.

Fire Station #4 Renovations

Assistant Chief Thompson reviewed plans to renovate Fire Station #4 which represents the rescue division. He advised that the renovation was approved in the 2005 bond election and includes construction of apparatus/vehicle storage, living quarters, and training space/equipment. Assistant Chief Thompson responded to citizens, advising regarding the cost-effectiveness of new construction, locations based on response time, and future renovations of other stations. He spoke to engines accompanying medical calls due to their response time and availability, ambulance response rates and advised that nearly one-half of staff are trained medics.

Open Questions and Answers

City Manager Muehlenbeck responded to a citizen regarding stoppage of unwanted newspapers. Mayor Dyer spoke to Council review of a ban on parking near mailboxes and advised that the Arts of Collin County is currently on hold awaiting a decision from the City of Frisco. City Manager Muehlenbeck spoke to Staff meetings with owners of Collin Creek Mall. Director of Property Standards O'Banner spoke to signage in front yards, advising that those for home occupation are not allowed. Director of Sustainability and Environmental Services Nevil spoke to water management procedures in place. Mayor Dyer spoke to struggling businesses and the hope that the market will improve. Oncor Area Manager Michael Baldwin advised that leaning power pole locations will be reviewed. Mr. Upchurch advised that businesses are notified when road projects are scheduled.

Mayor Pro Tem Dunlap thanked those in attendance. The session was closed at 8:52 p.m.

Phil Dyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diane Zucco, City Secretary