

**PLANO CITY COUNCIL
PRELIMINARY OPEN MEETING
December 22, 2008**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Evans, Mayor
Jean Callison, Mayor Pro Tem
Harry LaRosiliere, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Miner
Scott Johnson
Mabrie Jackson
Sally Magnuson
Lee Dunlap

STAFF

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck, City Manager
Frank Turner, Executive Director
Bruce Glasscock, Executive Director
Rod Hogan, Executive Director
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney
John Gilliam, First Assistant City Attorney
Diane Zucco, City Secretary

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m., Monday, December 22, 2008, in Training Room A of the Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. All Council Members were present. Mayor Evans 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, Section 551.071, to discuss Economic Development, Section 551.087 and to further discuss Personnel, Section 551.074 for which a certified agenda will be kept in the office of the City Secretary for a period of two years as required.

Mayor Evans reconvened the meeting back into the Preliminary Open Meeting at 6:08 p.m. in the Council Chambers where the following matters were discussed:

**Consideration and Action Resulting from Executive Session Discussion:
Personnel Reappointments/Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Arts of Collin County Commission Board of Directors

Upon a motion made by Mayor Evans and seconded by Council Member Jackson, the Council voted 8-0 to appoint Bobby Baggett as a joint at-large director to a term expiring September 2011.

Board of Adjustment

Upon a motion made by Council Member Johnson and seconded by Council Member Dunlap, the Council voted 8-0 to appoint Edward J. Stankunas as an alternate member with an interim term expiring October 2010.

Building Standards Commission

Upon a motion made by Council Member Johnson and seconded by Council Member Dunlap, the Council voted 8-0 to appoint Arthur Stone as an alternate member with an interim term expiring October 2009 and Gary Johnston and Mo Khoshkar as alternate members with interim terms expiring October 2010.

Personnel Appointments

Tax Increment Financing Reinvestment Zone No. 1

Upon a motion made by Council Member Magnuson and seconded by Council Member Dunlap, the Council voted 8-0 to reappoint Council Member Johnson as Chair.

Tax Increment Financing Reinvestment Zone No. 2

Upon a motion made by Council Member Magnuson and seconded by Council Member Dunlap, the Council voted 8-0 to reappoint Deputy Mayor Pro Tem LaRosiliere as Chair.

Rail North Texas

Transportation Director for the North Central Texas Council of Governments Michael Morris spoke to the importance of passenger rail in the region and the need to provide options for citizens and employees; rising fuel costs and possible shortages; working towards air quality compliance standards; reducing congestion; and creating a seamless transportation system. He spoke to the federal restriction prohibiting the inclusion of projects that are not reasonably anticipated to be funded and plans for 250 miles of rail; direction from state policy officials that sales tax should not be the revenue source and the effects of 4a and 4b monies. Mr. Morris spoke to legislators utilizing sale tax as state revenue and the opinion of private industry that using sales tax puts an unfair burden on large companies. He spoke to developing an initiative to implement rail in communities without it and to maintaining an equity position for roadways and reconstruction in those that do. Mr. Morris spoke to the position that communities who have rail or do not warrant it should have the flexibility to spend funds on other transportation elements and to ensuring that monies raised in a county remain in that county.

Mr. Morris spoke to the current cost to build the entire rail system of \$4.7 billion (\$8 billion if projected to build out) translating into an annualized amount of \$390 million with \$68 million for operations and maintenance. He spoke to the process as receiving approval by the legislature to hold local county elections and going to the voters with a detailed service plan including elements and revenue sources. Mr. Morris spoke to possible revenue sources including vehicle registration fees, motor fuels tax, mileage fees, property tax, driver's license fees, new resident fees and to a cap on the rate. He reviewed the policy summary: primarily rail with supplemental roadway; built by existing transportation authorities and transportation providers; limited functional transportation funding area (TFA); county elections determined by local elected officials and citizen vote; the legislature's current stand that no sales tax will be utilized but a menu of options for citizen choice will be created; the program will create revenue districts for service areas with money staying in the county generated; accountability rests with TFA and counties; the likelihood of one uniform rate for 12 counties and supplemental county revenues (that vary by county); expiration of some revenues; decisions on projects and taxes/fees made by local elected officials; counties can opt out; transportation providers issue bonds; and projects fixes with voter approval.

Mr. Morris further advised that the program would not create a new level of government; collect money in one county to spend in another; create a “one size fits all” solution or an additional organization to plan/finance/construct projects; decide for citizens; double tax DART service areas; have construction fees forever; put the future on the roadway system only; wait on TxDOT to fund needs; delay projects resulting in higher costs; or follow the current approach of raising revenue without assurance that projects would advance.

Council Member Dunlap spoke to the concept being sent to the legislature with the endorsement of cities and counties and to local voters having a right to choose the destiny of resources and their application. Mr. Morris responded to City Manager Muehlenbeck regarding the need to address situations where cities may lie in multiple counties and the need to ensure monies are spent locally and the impact should votes fail in some counties. Council Member Johnson spoke to Plano’s leadership in the region and possible credits should the county opt to construct additional rail lines. Mr. Morris spoke to the need for concurrence on the part of the RTC, developing a sub-account for Plano, and the need for equity and utilizing funds in a way that is related to transportation needs. He responded to City Manager Muehlenbeck that concerns regarding the beginning and ending points of the Cottonbelt line will be resolved as part of that initiative and to resolving issues. Mayor Evans spoke to termination at the Parker Road station. Mr. Morris spoke to technology allowing integration of different rail systems and communities to the east that may participate at a future time.

Mobility Report

Transportation Engineering Manager Neal spoke to items on the Regular Agenda addressing parking issues on Split Trail Road and reassigning Transportation Advisory Committee responsibilities to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He summarized activities of the last year including new procedures for neighborhood involvement in school drop-off and pickup issues, development of a policy to address overparking around neighborhood parks, the *Safe Streets Program* resulting in a 20% reduction in traffic speed and 10% reduction in volume, the retiming of 91 signals resulting in a 12% reduction in arterial travel times, reconstruction of intersection curbs for improved commercial area access, and signal operation modification reducing right-angle collisions. Mr. Neal spoke to sharing designs and processes with other cities, mentoring youth, development of walking/bicycle videos and to the Council advising that information regarding new left turn lane designs will be provided on the City’s web site.

Remaining items were discussed during the Regular Meeting. Mayor Evans adjourned the Preliminary Meeting directly into the Regular Meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Pat Evans, MAYOR

ATTEST

Diane Zucco, City Secretary