

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
February 22, 2010
City of Richardson, Texas

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held at 7:30 p.m., Monday, February 22, 2010 with a quorum of said Council present, to-wit:

Gary Slagel	Mayor
Bob Townsend	Mayor Pro Tem
Mark Solomon	Council member
John Murphy	Council member
Bob Macy	Council member
Steve Mitchell	Council member
Amir Omar	Council member

City staff present:

Bill Keffler	City Manager
Dan Johnson	Deputy City Manager
Michelle Thames	Assistant City Manager Administrative Services
David Morgan	Assistant City Manager Community Services
Cliff Miller	Assistant City Manager Development Services
EA Hoppe	Assistant to the City Manager
Pamela Schmidt	City Secretary

1. INVOCATION

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS – Members of Troop 895 and Troop 81 led the Pledge.

3. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2010 MEETING

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Murphy moved approval of the minutes as presented; second by Mr. Macy and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

4. VISITORS.

None.

5. CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION, ARTS COMMISSION, CIVIL SERVICE BOARD AND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Townsend moved to approve the following appointments and reappointments; second by Mr. Solomon with corrections with regard the place numbers and the vote was approved.

Civil Service Board/Appeals Board

Nancy Viamonte (PI 4) – term expiring August 31, 2011

Parks & Recreation Commission

Reappoint Bob Dubey, (Vice Ch) (PI 1) – term expiring December 1, 2011
Reappoint Ed Hassler, Jr. (PI 3) – term expiring December 1, 2011
Reappoint Laura Maczka (PI 4) – term expiring December 1, 2011
Reappoint Kenan Brandes (PI 1) – term expiring December 1, 2011
Appoint Dave Anderson (PI 2) – term expiring December 1, 2011
Appoint Jeremy Thomason (PI 4) – term expiring December 1, 2010

Arts Commission

Reappoint Abby Kratz (Chair) (PI 4) – term expiring January 31, 2012
Reappoint Richard Luttrell (Vice Chair PI 4) - term expires January 31, 2012
Reappoint Betty Peck (PI 2) – term expiring January 31, 2012
Reappoint Neal Orleans (PI 1) – term expiring January 31, 2012

Animal Services Advisory Commission

Appoint Bill Alsup (Municipal Official) – term expiring Mar 31, 2011
Reappoint Dana Huffman (PI 2) – term expiring Mar 31, 2012
Reappoint Paula Carlson (PI 2) – term expiring Mar 31, 2012
Reappoint Elise Bissell (PI 4) – term expiring Mar 31, 2012

City Secretary administered the Oath of Office to Nancy Viamonte and Dave Anderson.

6. Public Hearing and consider approval of Resolution No. 10-04 ordering a Bond Election be held on May 8, 2010 and considering other matter related to the election.

Mr. Keffler stated that Council's action on the item would culminate a series of meetings held since early November 2009 wherein staff began providing information on approximately \$500 Million of needs and wants to be funded by a bond election that evolved from citizen communication, staff examination and Council goals and objectives. The Priority "A" projects totaled approximately \$156 Million for 164 projects. He noted that the Council demonstrated a great deal of due diligence in examining the projects. He highlighted various items on the schedule such as the Early Voting period. He advised there were four propositions proposed with Resolution 10-04 in the total amount of \$66 million.

Mayor Slagel opened the public hearing noting the 5-minute time limit per speaker.

Darrell Day, 1303 Chickasaw, felt the timing and the amount was appropriate but, felt that more of the amount should be in neighborhood revitalization and roads.

Cathy Ziegler, 2305 Blackberry Drive, spoke in favor of the bond election and was comfortable with the additional taxes because she can see what she gets for the additional funds.

Jim Mallett, 1623 Greenhaven, stated he was in favor of a bond issue because there were significant needs that needed to be addressed. He talked about the difference between wants and needs. He felt resurfacing of Belt Line was needed and questioned funding for the Heights Recreation Center and acquisition of park land. He specifically mentioned erosion located north of Arapaho on West Shore that was not on the erosion control list. He felt that the bond issue needs to address the things that are important to the real infrastructure needs and felt the recreation needs should wait for a better economic climate.

Gala Partlow, 1308 Grinnell Drive, questioned the length of time for starting projects and asked about projects that received bond approval. Mayor Slagel stated that funding was approved in a previous bond program for Huffhines Park that was not issued and would not issue because the amount needed was more. Mr. Keffler explained the complications associated with the 1997 bond program because it did not include a tax rate increase component and therefore projects had to wait for funding availability. To insure that the citizens would not have to wait for projects, he stated that the 2006 bond program included a tax increase and almost all of the projects have been completed. He stated that the tax impact for the proposed \$66M program would be a 6 cent tax rate increase and the property tax on the average home valued at \$182,000 would be \$110 per year more than the current rate.

Bonnie Wells, 2107 W. Prairie Creek Drive, asked the Council to consider the current economy and asked the council to make wise decisions. She felt the funds should go toward infrastructure and addressed funds for needs rather than wants. Mayor Slagel noted that the citizens would have the opportunity to vote on each of the four propositions.

Thomas Hartnett, 324 Ridge Crest, stated that parks were not a consideration when he moved to Richardson. He noted that the tax rate increase would be forever and not just for one year. He objected to building a road on the UTD campus and spoke against funding for parkland. He spoke against most of the items listed on the bond program, but had no problem with fixing the roads and sidewalks.

Ruth Hartnett, 324 Ridgecrest, said that Richardson has been well-run, but was against the bond program due to the current economy. She spoke about the Federal debt and felt the Council needed to rethink selling more debt at this time.

Susan Bishop, 604 Park Bend, spoke in favor of the bond program. She felt the City needed to enhance itself in order to attract new residents.

Janet DePuy, 633 Parkview, President of Heights Park Neighborhood Assoc., representing Barry Hand of Cottonwood Heights and Andrew Laska of Richardson Heights Assoc., spoke in favor of the \$66M Bond program as written.

Kent Whitefield, 801 James Drive, spoke in favor of the bond program and was in favor of it being listed in four propositions. He noted the good interest rates at this time and expectation of better than expected construction costs.

Paul Johnson, 708 Hyde Park Drive, spoke in favor of the bond program and in taking advantage of the current construction savings. He likened the needs to renovating a 30 year old house to increase its value.

Laura Maczka, 301 Overcreek, Parks & Recreation Commission, spoke in favor the bond program and emphatically spoke about the need for recreation facilities.

Sherri Kidner, 4065 Kynder Circle, noted that Richardson is a community because of the library and the recreation centers rather than just a place to live. She stated that the Heights Recreation Center and pool was overcrowded. She felt the recreation center is important.

Mayor Slagel thanked the audience for their attendance and comments, and asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Macy moved to close the public hearing; second by Mr. Townsend and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Slagel opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Townsend felt the Council worked long and hard to get to the proposed program. He stated the great majority of people he spoke with was in support of the proposed bond program and recognized the needs of the community. He stated he would vote in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Macy noted low interest rates, good construction costs, maintenance of the infrastructure and he addressed the importance of improving the appearance of the City. He stated he would vote in favor of the resolution ordering the May election.

Mr. Mitchell stated his father moved his family to Richardson due to the quality of life and the schools, and he spoke about the need to continue that quality. He felt moving forward at this time was a historic opportunity to be bold and stated he would support the bond package.

Mr. Solomon talked about the need to maintain the curb appeal of Richardson and the infrastructure of Richardson. He felt the Council has looked at all of the needs and felt the Council has put together a very balanced program.

Mr. Omar clarified that the City would not be adding on to an existing park, but is proposing to have a new neighborhood park in the Spring Valley corridor. He felt the Council was striking a good balance of the needs. He stated that from his perspective, new parks and renovated parks and recreation centers as well as infrastructure was needed to attract new residents. He underscored that in the end, the residents would be able to decide with their vote what projects would occur. He stated he was in support of the program.

Mr. Murphy noted the economic challenges yet to be faced and noted that the work proposed is for the people who would live in Richardson in the future. He felt the program meets the needs of the community and credited good maintenance for the reason the facilities have continued to be useful for so long. He stated he would support the program.

Mayor Slagel stated he has also been concerned about the economy and remarked about the positive interest rates and construction costs at this time rather than waiting to a later time when costs would be more. He noted that he has received many positive remarks about the entry features to the City and the neighborhoods. He addressed the proposed roadways to be constructed on the UTDallas Campus noting that the City was very fortunate to have the school in Richardson. He stated that the City would have long term use of the property and stated the net gain was in the City's favor. He stated that calling the election gives the people the opportunity to cast their vote regarding the proposed bond program.

Mr. Murphy moved approval of Resolution 10-04; second by Mr. Mitchell and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Slagel thanked the audience for their comments and stated Council members would be happy to have further discussions.

7. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Mitchell asked about the demolition of the old Huffhines Recreation Center. Mr. Keffler stated the demolition would be completed in April.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Townsend moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented; second by Mr. Macy and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

A. Award the following bids:

1. **Bid #01-10** – Authorized issuance of an Annual Requirements Contract to Carruthers Landscape Management, Inc., for landscape and turf maintenance services pursuant to unit prices.
2. **Bid #22-10** – Awarded Intercon Construction the asbestos abatement & demolition of the old Huffhines Recreation Center and unit pricing for general demolition services in the amount of \$118,160.
3. **Bid #25-10** – Awarded Gardner Telecommunications, Inc., the 2010 Fiber Optic Installation Project Phase II in the amount of \$251,984.09.
4. **Bid #34-10** – Authorized initiation of Lease/Purchase Agreement with Qwest Communications Company, LLC for Cisco Systems Data and telephone equipment through the State of Texas Department of Information Services Contract #DIR-SDD-248 in the amount of \$1,699,999.71, making an initial payment of \$1,050,000 with the remainder of payments budgeted through future Operating Budgets, with financing provided by Key Government Finance, Inc., at zero percent interest.

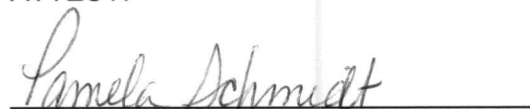
B. No item listed for this letter.

C. Authorized the City Manager to execute Change Order #1 to Purchase Order #100181 in the amount of \$61,100 to TMI Coatings, Inc., for the Glenville Water Tower Rehabilitation Project.

Mayor Slagel adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY

