

The City Council of the City of Taylor held a special meeting on April 7, 2009 at City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, Texas. Mayor Hortenstine declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the following present:

Mayor Pro Tem Ella Pumphrey Jez
Council Member Bernabe Gonzales
Council Member Donald Hill
Council Member John McDonald

Jim Dunaway, City Manager
Ted Hejl, City Attorney
Susan Brock, City Clerk

REGULAR AGENDA – REVIEW/DISCUSS & CONSIDER/ACTION:

1. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE EAST WILLIAMSON COUNTY REGIONAL PARK INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

Mayor Hortenstine began the discussion with an emphasis on the need for the Williamson County Commissioners to approve funding for a secondary road to enter and exit the park. He stressed the need was based on safety and use issues and encouraged his colleagues to continue to move forward with this request by contacting county commissioners individually.

Mayor Hortenstine then invited Casey Sledge, consulting City Engineer, to present an update on issues related to the park construction. Items to be considered for additional funding included lighting, electrical outlets, shade structure piers, and relocating garbage dumpsters. Council Member Hill moved to approve \$94,078.25 in change order items as presented by Mr. Sledge and an additional \$32,400 for the shade structure piers (not to include the shade structures at this time). Council Member McDonald seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

Mr. Cody Roberts with Ducks Unlimited presented a proposal to assist in the development of an “urban wetland” on the lake in the park. The project would include an educational component for schools and the construction of a “dog dock” for recreational activities. Council agreed to move forward with the concept and requested a formal agreement be developed between the City and Ducks Unlimited to ensure specific terms of the program are outlined. This discussion led into the possibility of a partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Texas to restore a portion of the land on the far eastern side of the lake to natural Blackland Prairie. Council believes both of these partnerships would add unique amenities to the park and provide educational opportunities not currently available elsewhere.

Preliminary discussion was held on establishing a new name for the park. The Street and Facility Naming Committee recommended “Taylor Sports Complex”; other suggestions included the addition of the word “Regional” and “Park” somewhere in the name. Council agreed to continue this discussion at a later time.

Staff reported a meeting with a marketing consultant to determine the potential of a fundraising campaign for the park. Ms. Jeanne Marie Ellis had provided staff with a proposed program to help develop a plan for corporate and individual sponsorships for the park. Council Member Hill expressed a desire to solicit additional proposals to review prior to making a decision.

ADJOURN

After setting a date for the continuation of this agenda for a meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, Mayor Hortenstine adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Rod Hortenstine, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Brock, City Clerk