

The City Council of the City of Taylor met on November 15, 2011, at City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, Texas. Mayor Hill declared a quorum and called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following present:

Council Member Jesse Ancira
Council Member Chris Gonzales
Council Member John McDonald
Council Member Chris Osborn

City Manager, Jim D. Dunaway
Assistant City Manager, Jeff Straub
City Attorney, Ted Hejl
City Clerk, Susan Brock

REGULAR AGENDA – REVIEW/DISCUSS & CONSIDER/ACTION:

1. RECEIVE STAFF PRESENTATION AND CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR FUNDING A MUNICIPAL RECREATION CENTER.

Mayor Hill provided a brief review of the process and asked Mr. Dunaway to provide an update. The possible financial options presented by Mr. Dunaway included the redirecting of funds still remaining from previous capital improvement projects. He presented a balance in these funds of approximately \$2.4 million. These funds combined with an additional \$1.15 million from outside sources, including the Taylor Economic Development Corporation (TEDC), would bring the current amount available for a center to \$3.55 million.

Mr. Casey Sledge reported that at least ten sites were selected for possible consideration for the building site and the county owned land at the Taylor Regional Park ranked highest based on a variety of factors.

Mr. Jeff Straub, Assistant City Manager, presented a proposed agreement with the YMCA to operate the new facility. The initial proposal includes a payment of approximately \$26,000 a year to the city in rental fees or in kind services and programs provided by the YMCA.

Mayor Hill welcomed public comment from the following individuals: Jose Orta, Ed Komandosky, Joe Naizer, James Marek, Leland Enochs, David Gonzales, Keith Hagler, Christine Lopez and Jason Ford, and Mark Thompson.

Mr. Jason Ford, President of the TEDC, stated his organization is committed to providing up to \$1.2 million in financial assistance to the city for utility construction on the 2nd Street project which should free up city funds for other projects, including the recreation center. He said the TEDC Board is seeking the best financial option to securing these funds and should have a formal response to Council by the end of the year.

Mayor Hill asked for comment from each Council Member. Council Member Osborn noted that the TEDC contribution is critical to the plan and that he is still interested in seeking a downtown location for the facility. He also expressed his desire to continue seeking the funds necessary to fix the streets.

Council Member Ancira requested further clarification on the ability of the city to redirect these funds as presented and requested any opinions from bond counsel be in writing. He emphasized the need to move forward with this project and to help change

the perception of Taylor with this type of positive investment in the community. He also requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board be asked to participate in the development of future programming with the YMCA.

Council Member McDonald also expressed his desire to move the community forward. Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales expressed his appreciation for the efforts made to secure funding for the recreation center but would prefer to see at least a portion of this money used for street repair.

Mayor Hill stated that he thought the funding of such a project without raising taxes was a definite step in the right direction. He would like to continue to seek additional partnerships to assist in the costs of the operation of the facility.

With no further discussion or comment Council Member McDonald moved to have staff proceed forward with the financing and construction of the recreation, teen, community center at the Taylor Regional Park on county donated land as recommended in the council approved Parks Master Plan and to authorize the City Manager to submit a Letter of Intent to the YMCA to operate the facility in Taylor in the most cost efficient manner for the benefit of the entire community. Council Member Ancira seconded the motion. Council Member Osborn requested an amendment to the motion to include the option of building the facility downtown. Council Member Osborn's motion died for the lack of a second. VOTE: Four voted AYE. One NO (Council Member Gonzales). Motion passed.

ADJOURN

With no further business; Mayor Hill adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Susan Brock, City Clerk

Don Hill, Mayor