

The City Council of the City of Taylor met in a special joint meeting with the Taylor Independent School District (TISD) Board on October 16, 2007, at Sirloin Stockade Restaurant on T. H. Johnson Drive, Taylor, Texas. Mayor Bernabe Gonzales declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:20 a.m. with twenty seven attendees present including the following:

Council Member Ella Jez
Council Member John McDonald

Frank Salvato, City Manager
City Clerk, Susan Brock

REGULAR AGENDA – REVIEW/DISCUSS & CONSIDER/ACTION:

1. UPDATE ON NEW RETAIL, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.

Mr. Frank Salvato, City Manager presented an update on city activities related to housing and retail construction. He noted that staff continues to seek out developers and attended the International Conference on Shopping Centers (ICSC) in San Antonio for a second year in an effort to promote Taylor as a community interested in new retail businesses and development. Mr. Salvato reported a successful event and staff will be following up with those developers who indicated a sincere interest in coming to Taylor.

2. UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENTS TO EAST WILLIAMSON COUNTY PARK.

Mr. Salvato presented an update on the most recent issues related to the development planned for the East Williamson County Regional Park. He reported that the park improvements are currently in the design phase and development nearby may include the possibility of additional shared spaces with the TISD, City, and the Taylor Rodeo Association.

3. UPDATE ON CROSSWALKS AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECTS.

Mr. Salvato presented an update on the recent grant award from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to install sidewalks connecting the public schools in Taylor. The program is designed to make walking and biking to school safe. The original proposal included over 12,000 linear feet of sidewalks connecting our middle school and elementary schools. He noted that the award was for \$500,000 and not the original \$750,000 requested. Staff will begin to re-evaluate the project and anticipate at least one public meeting to gather input into how the design can be altered in order to stay within the budgeted award amount.

In addition to the previously mentioned sidewalk project, TxDOT has completed work on the Highway 95/Main Street crosswalk as well as the crosswalk on Carlos G. Parker Blvd to the middle school. These projects include the crosswalk, additional curbs, ramps, sidewalks and pedestrian signal elements.

4. CITY LAUNCHES CONNECT CTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.

The CONNECT-CTY system allows the City to broadcast news, information, bulletins, and a variety of messages to individual phones, email, or text messaging. Staff is still in the process of gathering and updating citizen contact information and had an opportunity to use the system during the summer regarding the water intake valve damage and the need for temporary water restrictions.

5. CITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE.

Mr. Casey Sledge, consulting engineer to the City, provided a brief overview of current and future projects. Several of the projects are related to water towers and wastewater improvements. He added that the 2007 Street Maintenance program is underway and will hopefully be completed before the weather creates additional delays. Streetscape Downtown is nearing completion and the Murphy Park Lake dam project is in the design phase and will be going out for bid before the end of the year.

6. UPDATE ON CITY SALES TAX REPORT.

Mr. Salvato reported that sales tax continues to be on the increase and that the City and Chamber of Commerce will be launching a "Shop Local" campaign for the holiday season. He reminded everyone that every cent received in sales tax ultimately lowers the property tax burden in providing City services to citizens.

7. CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A JOINT MAINTENANCE FACILITY.

Mr. Salvato and Dr. Bruce Scott, TISD, have been discussing the feasibility of establishing a joint maintenance facility for city and school vehicles. The TISD current bus barn is no longer adequate and there is interest in the City and the TISD joining together to build a new facility on the eastern side of the City. Additional research needs to be done regarding available properties and discussions are continuing on this issue.

8. DISCUSS DISPOSITION OF TENNIS COURTS.

Mr. Salvato and Dr. Scott have been discussing the future of the existing tennis courts at the corner of Davis and Lake Drive. There is a possibility that new courts and a new Tennis Center could be built on land between the Taylor Rodeo Association and the Middle School. Both agreed that the current condition of the courts needs improvement and both entities will be working together to resolve this issue.

9. FACILITIES REPORT

Dr. Scott presented a Master Plan for the TISD facilities recently completed. He stressed that the plan is designed to assist faculty and staff in determining future needs of the community and in managing current facilities. Projections for growth continue to exceed current capacity and the TISD will be reviewing the master plan in more detail prior to making any recommendations. The report is available on the TISD website and a copy will be placed for review at the Taylor Public Library.

10. ENROLLMENT

Dr. Scott reported that the current enrollment for the District is over 3,000 with an anticipated increase of more than 40% by the year 2015. He is hopeful that the new Master Plan will assist staff in addressing facility needs to meet the increased enrollment.

11. PROPOSED TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE (TSTC) CLASSES.

Dr. Scott provided a brief synopsis of the proposed classes to be offered through Temple College at Taylor in conjunction with Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Future classes include agricultural mechanics, culinary arts, and additional vocational studies not currently available in this area.

ADJOURN

No action was taken on any item and without further business, Mayor Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Bernabe Gonzales Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Brock, City Clerk