

**IRVING CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
April 5, 2006**

The Irving City Council met in work session in the First Floor Council Conference Room of the City Hall Complex on April 5, 2006. The following members were present:

Mayor Herbert A. Gears

Councilmembers

James Dickens
Beth Van Duyne
Allan E. Meagher
Lewis Patrick
Lowell Cannaday
Rick Stopfer
Sam Smith
Joe Philipp

Mayor Gears convened the meeting at 12:00 P.M.

1 DISCUSSION: Review of Regular Agenda

The Council reviewed the items posted for action at the Regular Council meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 6, 2006. The following Council directions were noted:

3 Resolution -- Authorizing The Mayor To Apply For And Accept The Assistance To Firefighters Grant From The U.S. Department Of Home Land Security Federal Emergency Management Agency In The Amount Of \$188,220.00

Councilman Philipp asked for a briefing on this item.

Fire Chief Paul White stated that this is authorization to apply through Home Land Security for fifteen "hand free" Thermal Imaging Cameras for each fire engine and truck company. The deadline to apply for this grant is one week. Notification regarding the award will come from Home Land Security sometime before October 2006.

10 Resolution – Declaring Property Surplus And Authorizing The Taking Of Bids For The Sale Of 4.3722 Acres Of Land Owned By The City Of Irving Located At 400 Shady Grove Road In Grand Prairie, Texas (Former Police Auto Pound)

Councilman Cannaday asked what is the value of this land and if there were any EPA contamination problems?

Real Estate Services Manager Doug Janeway stated the value of the property is in the range of \$50 to \$60 thousand dollars per acre. This property will be put out for bid. Mr. Janeway stated that although there were no known environmental issues, the property will be sold "as-is" and the buyer will be responsible for conducting an environmental inspection. He also clarified that the City Of Grand Prairie does not want this land.

16 Resolution – Approving The Appointment And Employment Agreement Of Tomas Gonzalez To Serve As City Manager For The City Of Irving

Mayor Gears stated that this item would be discussed in Executive Session.

17 Resolution – Appointments To Boards, Commissions, And Committees a) Irving Convention And Visitors Bureau Board

Councilman Dickens stated that Gail Jackson would be appointed to the ICVB board.

Councilman Cannaday asked if there would be an appointment made for the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Councilman Dickens asked that this will be placed on the next agenda.

18 City Manager's Report

- City offices will be closed April 14, 2006, for Spring Holiday; the libraries will be open on April 14, 2006, but closed on April 16, 2006;
- Congratulated Dennis King for his appointment to the Water Utility Operator Licensing Advisory Committee by TCEQ. This committee is responsible for advising and assisting TCEQ on matters related to training and licensing of water and wastewater operators to protect the public health and environment in the State of Texas;
- The Water Utilities Department will be sponsoring "The Wonder of Water" on Saturday, May 6, 2006, from 10-2 p.m. at the Valley View Municipal Complex located at 333 Valley View Lane.
- Pre-opening tour was held for Fluor Headquarters on Tuesday, April 4, 2006. The representative from Fluor Corporation was impressed by the level of cooperation from the City of Irving;
- Handout on study from Price Waterhouse Coopers which analyzes the economic and fiscal impact of shortening the building permit process;

- The Arts Board is hosting a Cultural Field Trip to Abilene, Texas to tour their museum on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on Code Enforcement amendments to the zoning ordinance, in the Council Chambers on April 17, 2006;
- The Irving/Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce 74th Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, at the Westin DFW located at 4545 W. Carpenter Freeway at Esters;
- Community Fest will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Senter Park Recreation Center;
- Information pamphlets on the May 13, 2006 Special Election have been prepared and will be distributed to sites throughout the community and to the City Boards, Commissions and Committees;
- Memo from Jim Cline, Director of Public Works/Traffic, about the Red Light Enforcement, the memo stated that the Attorney General still has this information in his office;
- On Tuesday, April 4, 2006, a Bond Task Force meeting and a Public Hearing on the O'Connor Road Improvement North of 183 Project were held;
- Trans Texas Corridor issue was in the paper: The city is staying on top of this as this is going to be a big issue. Councilman Cannaday asked about position taken by the cities of Waco and Hillsboro on the location of this corridor. Mr. Cash advised that currently the route is going east of Hillsboro and the Mayor of this city has stated that they are opposed to this route.
- A meeting will be set up with Dallas Central Appraisal District to begin talking about their issue of how they look at their appraisals;
- Press release regarding a Warrant Roundup – the City of Irving will be participating in this Regional Warrant Roundup;
- Executive Secretary Christie Williams in the City Manager's office is out ill,
- Councilman Philipp request for the Building and Standards Commission meeting and an update report on the case load. The Council agreed to receive the board composition and review a status report on the Commission at the Community Services meeting to be held on May 17, 2006.

19 Mayor's Report

- Mayor Gears stated that while he did not attend the pre-opening tour of Fluor Corporation building, but he did get to spend a great deal of time with Mr. Beckman, the CEO of this corporation. He noted that Mr. Beckman was very complimentary of the City Of Irving staff. The Mayor congratulated everyone involved in this project.

- Mayor Gears also stated that there would be a Public Works Committee meeting on April 26, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. and there is also a Finance Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m. on the same day

2 DISCUSSION: Proposal From The Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee – As Requested By Mayor Gears

Mayor Gears stated that the Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee would be giving a presentation about this proposed project.

Bob Moffatt, Chairman of the Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee, reviewed the background of this committee and the current Veterans Memorial Project. He then presented a proposed contract to fund the expansion of this Irving memorial to a regional memorial. This regional memorial will be modeled after the memorial built in Lubbock, Texas. A video on the Lubbock's memorial was presented.

John Danish, a member of the Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee, presented the funding options as outlined in the proposed contract.

There followed lengthy discussion of the sale of bricks to fund the project, marketing tools, distribution of funds raised and the City's role in this project.

The committee agreed to bring additional information, contract clarifications, and a Master plan back to a future Worksession.

3 DISCUSSION: Discussion Of Legislative Issues With HillCo Partners

Acting City Manager Cash introduced Snapper Carr and Brandon Aggamillion from HillCo Partners.

Mr. Aggamillion and Mr. Carr presented a legislative update to the Council particularly regarding the upcoming Texas Special Legislative Session

They presented a summary of the Texas Tax Reform Commission Proposed Legislation and the Senate and House of Representative Interim Study charges.

Mayor Gears asked if minor amendments can be considered during this Special Session?

Mr. Carr advised against this.

On the Federal level, Councilwoman Van Duyne asked that they look at the Telecom legislation.

Mayor Gears stated that the Council will be willing to go to Austin if needed and advised that Councilman Smith is Chair of the Council's Legislative Committee.

4 DISCUSSION: Consideration Of Gas Rate Case – Atmos Energy Mid Tex

Senior Assistant City Attorney Cathy Cunningham presented this item and said that she recommended that the city join this group of cities to oppose this rate increase.

After Council discussion, the Council agreed to bring this back in ordinance to a regular meeting for consideration.

5 DISCUSSION: Receive Report On Televising Work Sessions – As Requested By Mayor Gears

Acting City Manager Cash stated that a handout on this item was passed out. Mr. Cash stated that the Council conference room was not designed for television; there are lighting changes to be made as well as other issues. Staff will proceed with the RFP process and bring this item back for further discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Gears read the Council into Executive Session at 2:58 p.m.

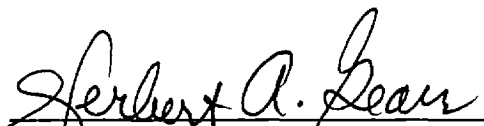
6 DISCUSSION: Legal Advice – Lake Chapman Water Rights And Diversions

7 DISCUSSION: Housing And Human Services Executive Director's Compensation

16 Resolution – Approving The Appointment And Employment Agreement Of Tomas Gonzalez To Serve As City Manager For The City Of Irving

Mayor Gears announced that the Council will now reconvene in Open Session The time was 5:35 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.


Herbert A. Gears, Mayor

ATTEST:


Janice Carroll, TRMC
City Secretary

