

**IRVING CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
May 2, 2007**

The Irving City Council met in work session in the First Floor Council Conference Room of the City Hall Complex on May 2, 2007. 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

Councilman Philipp was not in attendance.

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 May 3, 2007. The following Council directions were noted.

31 Resolution – Public Hearing -- Failure Of Tio Carlos Mexican Restaurant (Hereinafter Referred To As “Tio Carlos”) To Meet The Requirements Of Section 52-49 Of Ordinance No. 1144 “Restaurant With Attendant Accessory Use Of The Sale Of Alcoholic Beverages For On-Premises Consumption”

Councilman Dickens asked for a status on this item

Senior Assistant City Attorney Cathy Cunningham gave a status report on this item and explained that the restaurant is in compliance with the site plan, but they have not furnished the required quarterly reports. They are now out of compliance in reporting and they are still out of compliance with the 60/40 ratio of food and alcohol sales.

Councilman Dickens asked if Ms. Cunningham has talked to the owner.

Ms. Cunningham stated that she has not talked to the owner, but will talk to him before the hearing at the Regular Council Meeting tomorrow...

32 Resolution – Appointments To Boards And Commissions – Housing And Human Services, Place 6 – Unexpired Term, Expiring November 2008

Councilman Dickens stated that they have one candidate, Suzanne Beeman, that is very interested in this position and the board concurs.

33 City Manager's Report

Goal No. 2 Vibrant Neighborhoods

- City Staff will meet with residents of the South Austin Heights neighborhood at 7:00 p.m. May 7, 2007, at the Summerville Retirement Center. The group will discuss proposed bylaws to create a neighborhood association, and will be updated on the work plan for their area. The meeting follows an April 14, 2007, on-site neighborhood assessment of all properties within the pilot neighborhood. The Neighborhood Operations Team and South Austin residents used digital documentation equipment to enter data about each property. The information will be used in formulating long-term, solutions to the issues and deficiencies noted during the assessment.

Goal No. 4: Safe and Secure City

- Commended Fire Chief Molina and his staff for saving the city money when purchasing trucks and purchasing a platform for the ladder with money that was saved in purchasing the truck.
- Mayor Gears asked if the city was going to be getting an aquatic fire fighting equipment with regards to the lakes in the Urban Center. Mr. Gonzalez stated that this will be discussed in the next budget year. Mayor Gears also asked if this would require the city to build a station closer to the water. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the city might need to build a new fire station while Councilman Stopfer noted that the Las Colinas station will need to be moved when the Northwest Corridor is developed.
- Crime Free Multi-Housing Program – The Police Department conducted a Phase I/Train-the-Trainer course for the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program on April 18, 2007. Representatives from 10 Irving apartment complexes and seven Texas police agencies attended this training. Apartment personnel were taught how to recognize criminal and drug activity, as well as basic crime prevention and crime prevention through environmental design techniques. The law enforcement personnel were certified to implement the program in their jurisdictions.

- Public Safety Digital Recording System – The Information Technology Department, along with the Police and Fire departments, are reviewing vendors to purchase identical digital audio recording systems. This new system will have the capability to interface with the current public safety radio system, as well as record and archive all related radio communication. By purchasing identical systems for both departments, the two departments can share information and streamline training and maintenance.
- Atmel did sell and this will cause a thousand new jobs, a formal announcement will be made in May.

Goal No. 8: Sound Governance

- Lawsuit Victory – Senior Assistant City Attorney Nancy Williams successfully defended the City Of Irving in a lawsuit involving \$750,000 in liability claims brought against the city and its police officers by Leyda Rodriguez. The city attorney was able to obtain a judgment on a motion in a trial in the 192nd District Court In Dallas before Judge Craig Smith, and the plaintiffs did not receive anything.

Goal No. 9: Infrastructure Network

- Red Light Enforcement Warning Period – Red light enforcement cameras have been installed at two intersections in Irving, and a 30-day warning period began May 1, 2007. Offenders will receive a warning of violations in the mail. The cameras have been added at the intersections of O'Connor Road at Lane Street and Belt Line Road at Pioneer Drive to help decrease the severity of traffic accidents caused by red-light offenders. After the 30-day warning period, offenders will receive a notice of violation with the fine. The notices will include color photos of the driver's car and his/her license plate. The first two violations will cost \$75 each. A third violation within a 12-month period will cost \$150. The offense is considered civil, not criminal. Additional red light cameras will be installed pending TxDOT permitting.
- Mayor Gears asked if the city had a response mechanism with TxDOT for example to make a request for them to correct problems on the roadways that they maintain. Does the city have the ability to call them? Mr. Cline stated that they call them all the time.
- Councilman Smith asked about the cutting of weeds along the service road for Highway 183 between Carl Road and Belt Line. Mr. Gooch stated that this is TxDOT property; they will not mow until the wildflowers go to seed, and the city mows around them and knocks down the weeds around them. Mr. Cline stated that if this is a safety issue they will send someone out there today.

Goal No. 7: Cultural, Recreational and Educational Environments.

- Park Dedications - Managing Director Paul Gooch announced Two Irving parks will be dedicated this month: North Lake Ranch Park at 11:00 a.m. May 17, 2007 followed by Lively Pointe Skate Park at 4:00 p.m. on May 24, 2007

34 Mayor's Report

There was no report given.

35 Committee And Liaison Report/Meetings

Councilwoman Van Duynes gave an update on the North Lake property located between Belt Line and Mac Arthur north of Hackberry Road that the Crow Billingsley Group purchased two and a half years ago. She noted that their plan is to develop 10,700 housing units. The City of Irving is working with the City of Dallas, the developer, and TXU to help make this a workable number as this will generate an additional 28,000 people. Last Monday the city found that the developer has purchased an additional 214 acres from TXU, and they are seeking the same type of high density zoning. She noted that she would like the Council to consider partner with the Town of Coppell on this development. She noted that in the past TXU agreed to allow the City of Irving to have the first right of refusal on the purchase of their land. This will be pursued in a letter to be prepared by Acting City Attorney Charles Anderson.

3 **DISCUSSION:** Comprehensive Water Update

Director of Public Works/Traffic and Transportation Jim Cline introduced Ann Berger from First Southwest and stated that a proposal has been presented to the staff to develop a strategic financial planning model for the next twenty years. Mr. Cline recommends that the city pursue this contract.

Ann Berger, Managing Director for First Southwest Company from the San Antonio office gave a presentation to the Mayor and Council; she stated that this should be separate from the financial advisory contract so that they can bring to it the objectivity related to looking at the city's system relative to other systems across the country.

The council agrees with the contract.

Mr. Cline gave a brief update presentation on water issues but asked that the detailed presentation and the presentation from Dean International be

deferred to the Council Public Works Committee meeting next week. The Council agreed.

2 DISCUSSION: Discuss and Review Sign Ordinance Revisions

Director of Inspections Gary Miller presented the item and stated that the ordinance will be rewritten and coordinate with the zoning ordinance. He reviewed the content and stated that the changes consist of two groups one is subdivision signs on masonry walls and the other is the variance process.

Mr. Miller stated that the current fee for a variance is \$150 to staff is recommending that it be raised to \$300.

The Council agreed that they wanted to cover the actual cost of the sign variance and asked that this cost be brought back for consideration.

Mr. Miller stated that he will research this and will come back at the next Council meeting.

City Manager Gonzalez stated the city is working closely with the Chamber on monument sign incentives.

4 DISCUSSION: IHFC Meeting

Mayor Gears recessed the Work Session and 1:10 p.m. and convened the Irving Housing Finance Corporation meeting.

At 1:19 p.m. Mayor Gears reconvened the Council Work Session meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Acting City Attorney Charles Anderson read the Mayor and Council into Executive Session at 1:20 p.m.

5 DISCUSSION: Legal Advice – North Lake Development

6 DISCUSSION: Personnel – City Manager

Mayor Gears announced that the Council will now reconvene in Open Session. The time was 2:40 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Herbert A. Gears, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janice Carroll, TRMC
City Secretary