

**WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE IRVING CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2009**

The Irving City Council met in work session January 21, 2009. The following members were present/absent:

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Herbert Gears	Irving City Council	Mayor	Absent	
Beth Van Duyne	Irving City Council	Councilwoman	Absent	
Allan Meagher	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Lewis Patrick	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Rick Stopfer	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Sam Smith	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Joe Philipp	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Rose Cannaday	Irving City Council	Councilwoman	Present	
Thomas Spink	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	

Councilman Rick Stopfer called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

1 Review of Regular Agenda

The Council reviewed the agenda and the following directions were noted.

5 Resolution -- Approving a Memorandum Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the Use of the Texas Stadium Site for Construction Staging for the State Highway 114/Loop 12/State Highway 183 Interchange and Surrounding Projects

Councilman Rick Stopfer requested a presentation on this item.

Real Estate Services Assistant Director Doug Janeway described the agreement with TxDOT. He noted the agreement is for 10 years with the City receiving over 15.4 million dollars for their use of the property with relocation and extension options included. He also clarified that TxDOT has agreed to screen the construction from the right of way.

Councilman Joe Philipp questioned the notification process and the payment allocation.

Assistant Director Janeway confirmed that if the City wished to relocate the TxDOT staging site, they would have to notify TxDOT six months prior to the move and stated that the City will receive the money at the beginning of the project.

Councilman Philipp and Councilman Smith commended staff's work on this agreement.

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez clarified that the money received is currently allocated for infrastructure improvements on the site that will be needed for future redevelopment.

8 Resolution -- Approving Irving Arts Center Founders Fund Grants Process

Councilman Sam Smith requested a presentation on this item.

Executive Director of the Arts Center, Richard Huff described the grants program and organizational processes.

Councilman Philipp asked for a copy of the actual policy.

Executive Director Huff stated that it will be provided to them at the regular meeting.

Councilwoman Rose Cannaday noted that the Arts Board voted in favor of the new policy unanimously as this will support more diversity in the Arts Center programming.

17 Ordinance -- Budget Adjustment to the 2008-09 Fiscal Year Budget

Councilman Philipp requested a description of the budget adjustments.

Budget Administrator Bret Starr outlined the adjustments in the various budgets, noting that many changes are increases in funds available due to grant approvals and leasing agreements.

City Manager Gonzalez clarified that the 2.7 million dollar savings from the new energy contract will be allocated to a separate fund for future projects.

Councilman Philipp questioned how much grant money the City received in 2008.

Mr. Starr stated that he will provide that to the Council.

18 Ordinance -- Amending the Comprehensive Plan to Change the Recommended Land Use from High Density Residential to Low Density Residential and Granting S-P-2 (Generalized Site Plan) for R-6 (Single Family) in Zoning Case #ZC08-0054 - Approximately 5.107 Acres Located on the West Side of Homestead Court, West of Compton Road - James Trinkle, Applicant - Victor Abraham, Owner

Senior Planner Kenneth Bloom confirmed that the applicant has requested postponement to March 5, 2009.

19 Ordinance -- Amending the Comprehensive Plan to Change the Recommended Land Use from Low Density Residential to Light Commercial and Granting S-P-2 (Generalized Site Plan) for C-OU-2 (Commercial Outdoor) and Warehouse Uses in Zoning Case #ZC08-0071 - Approximately 2.75 Acres Located at 425 South Loop 12 and 1720 Landmark Road - JDJR Engineers, Applicant - Equipment Southwest, Inc., Owner

Senior Planner Bloom presented the case, noting that a ¾ vote of the entire Council is needed for approval due to the neighboring opposition.

Councilman Lewis Patrick requested that signage restricting large truck traffic on Landmark Road be added.

Public Works Director Jim Cline stated that he will review the plans and make a recommendation at the regular meeting.

Councilman Allan Meagher questioned the outdoor speaker system, noting concern for the neighboring residential properties and the noise created.

Real Estate & Development Director Brenda McDonald confirmed that the applicant has stated that the speaker system is essential to the business operations.

Councilman Smith requested staff to contact the applicant and ask him to clarify the hours of operation, the use of the speaker system, the increase of employees with the expansion, and the landscaping specifications.

Director McDonald stated that she will try to contact the applicant during the break to clarify the hours of operation, number of employees, use of the outdoor speakers, and landscaping specifications and the screening fence.

23 Resolution -- Appointment to the Upper Trinity Regional Water District Board

City Manager Gonzalez recommended Internal Compliance & Special Services Director Ramiro Lopez to be appointed to the board.

The Council agreed.

2 2008 Crime Update

Police Chief Larry Boyd presented the 2008 Crime Report. His presentation included a seven percent decrease in the crime rate since 2007 and described the reporting process mandated by the FBI. He also highlighted several inter-departmental initiatives that correlated with the reduction in crime, to include: auto-related crime, focusing on intelligence, the 24/7 CAP, the problem solving team, and substandard property closures.

The Council commended the Chief and his staff.

Councilman Smith stated that this good news should be given to "D Magazine".

Councilwoman Cannaday questioned the gang statistics within the City.

Chief Boyd noted that Irving does not have as much of a gang problem as other cities but home visits by the gang unit keeps the police visibility high in problem neighborhoods and involves the parents.

Councilman Philipp asked who handles graffiti.

Chief Boyd described the graffiti removal process, noting that several departments have a role in this effective program.

Councilman Patrick asked if the Irving ISD had interest in purchasing some of the properties on Tudor Lane.

City Manager Gonzalez confirmed that staff is working with the IISD for the possible purchase of that land.

Councilman Philipp asked if the police had prepared a strategy for limiting underage alcohol sales and asked if the City could pull a store's CO permit if that occurred.

Chief Boyd replied that the Police Department is providing training for all convenience store employees and that anyone caught selling to a minor would be arrested on the spot.

City Attorney Charles Anderson stated that TABC would revoke a permit for habitual violators, but that staff will look at the City's options to revoke a Certificate of Occupancy.

Councilman Spink asked if the City had the ability to engrave IDs on electronics and if so, he suggested that ICOPS could do this at Neighborhood Association meetings.

3 City-wide Ordinance Review

Code Enforcement Director Teresa Adrian presented the 2008 ordinance review, noting several important ordinance amendments that have been passed recently, to include: cell phone free school zones, Chapter 8 amendments and the addition of the crime free multi-family housing program, commercial design guidelines, convenience store crime prevention, and a more restrictive sign ordinance.

Councilman Philipp questioned how the City controls overflowing dumpsters.

Director Adrian stated that citations are issued to the property owner for overflowing dumpsters.

The Council and staff discussed communication efforts to promote the City's newer regulations to the media and local organizations.

Councilwoman Cannaday asked that staff consider presenting these initiatives at Texas Municipal League conferences.

4 DART Update- Compressed Gas v. Diesel

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

5 Automated Photo Enforcement Program

Transportation Director Jim Driscoll reviewed the red-light camera program, noting that over 1,200 citations are issued per month with a 73% collection rate. His presentation also included a recommendation for three additional cameras at various locations throughout the City.

Councilman Tom Spink questioned the \$75.00 fine.

Traffic Safety Coordinator Chris Bruton clarified that the fine amount is set by the state and the state receives 50% of the fees collected.

The City Council agreed to move forward with the additional locations.

6 O'Connor Road Paving Improvements from State Highway 183 to Rochelle Road

Public Works Director Jim Cline presented the proposed O'Connor Road improvements. He noted that the project will include infrastructure upgrades and a sidewalk/ walking trail from SH 183 to Rochelle Boulevard on the north bound side of O'Connor Road.

Councilman Sam Smith asked what the time frame was for this project.

Director Cline stated that more information would be brought back to the City Council in 60-75 days, after the public input process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Attorney Charles Anderson read the Mayor and Council into Executive Session at 3:47 PM.

- 7 Legal Advice - DFW Revenue Sharing Agreement
(Texas Open Meetings Act § 551.071)

Mayor Gears announced that the Council will now reconvene in Open Session. The time was 4:25 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 PM.

Herbert A. Gears, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janice Carroll, TRMC
City Secretary