

**WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE IRVING CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 7, 2009**

The Irving City Council met in work session October 7, 2009. The following members were present/absent:

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

Mayor Herbert Gears called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC**

**1** Introduction of City Council Cycle Participants

There was not an introduction of the Council Cycle Participants at this meeting.

**2** Introduction of Irving Convention Center General Manager - Thom Connors, SMG Worldwide

Convention and Visitor's Bureau Executive Director Maura Gast introduced Tom Connors with SMG who will be the General Manager of the Convention Center.

Councilman Lewis Patrick asked when the next walk through of the site will be.

Ms. Gast confirmed that the scheduled walk through is the fourth Friday of the month.

**3** Review of Regular Agenda

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

**1** City Manager's Report

Recycling Supervisor Fran Witte described the recyclable bags that were made by local seamstresses from the Heritage Senior Center that were presented to the Mayor and City Council.

**10** Resolution -- Awarding a Contract to Texas State Utilities for Utility Undergrounding at the Irving Arts Center Project

Councilman Sam Smith requested a presentation on this item.

City Engineer Mike Walter noted the location of the undergrounding and he said this is

Phase 1. He described the additional work that will be done by Verizon and Oncor during Phase 2 with a total project cost of \$650,000.

**13** Resolution -- Supporting the Everest Heights Mixed-Use Development Project

Councilman Lewis Patrick asked the location of the development.

Real Estate & Development Director Brenda McDonald clarified the development is on the north side of Highway 161 and Highway 635, noting a full presentation will be presented during the work session.

**19** Resolution -- Authorizing the Mayor to Accept American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding in an Amount Up to \$2,058,600 through the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Management Analyst Kathryn Guerra described the grant and the street light project that will use solar power to light the streets with LED bulbs.

Councilman Smith questioned the other projects that would use this grant funding.

Ms. Guerra stated that staff is working on a strategy plan for future projects.

Mayor Gears clarified that this will begin with the Irving Boulevard Corridor.

**30** Ordinance -- First Reading - Amending Chapter 52 "Water and Sewer Rates" of the Code of Civil and Criminal Ordinances of the City of Irving, Texas, Providing for a Waiver of Deposit; Providing for Cost Recovery Related to Utility Services Disconnections

Business Manager Aimee Kaslik presented the Lean Six Sigma project that streamlined the customer service process and led to the proposed fee adjustments for water non-payment and reconnection.

The Council discussed their concern for penalizing residents that are having difficult financial times, noting the need to assist them if possible.

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez confirmed that those residents are referred to the Housing and Human Services Department for possible utility payment assistance.

Ms. Kaslik also confirmed that payment plan options are available as well.

Mayor Herbert Gears requested a breakdown on the "bad actors" by residential and commercial properties.

Councilwoman Rose Cannaday noted her concern for the residents on limited income and requested more information on the funding Housing and Human Services provides for payment assistance.

Councilwoman Beth Van Duyne asked that the increased nonpayment fees be added only to habitually late customers not those that fall behind one time. She asked that staff look at a definition of "habitually late".

Ms. Kaslik stated that she would look at the program but was sure the system would

identify repeat offenders differently than first-time offenders. She clarified that this does not impact apartments as they are addressed differently.

The Council discussed other payment options; to include a possible fund to help those that need financial assistance.

City Attorney Charles Anderson stated that he would look into the funding possibilities to assist residents in need.

City Manager Gonzalez noted that the current process relies on the City to absorb the processing and reconnection costs; the payments create a cost recovery initiative. He also stated that the additional information requested will be given to the Council before the regular meeting.

**4** Everest Heights Project

Real Estate & Development Director Brenda McDonald presented a video from the developer of the Everest Heights Project. She noted that the mixed-use project would include 40 retailers, a movie theater, a food court and conference rooms to cater to the large South Asian population in Irving.

The City Council noted their support of the development.

**5** IWIN Retiree Health Insurance Program

Strategic Resources Director Nancy Bartlett gave an overview of the proposed health program changes. Staff's recommendation included a fitness annuity and another health insurance option for employees. She also described the City's current incentives.

Employee Services Administrator Ike Obi reviewed the questions and concerns received during employee and retiree input meetings.

Councilman Tom Spink noted his support of the new plan and was interested in adding the health clinic program in the future.

**6** Boards & Commissions Appointment Process

City Secretary Janice Carroll presented the Council's appointment process for the City's boards, committees, and commissions. Her presentation included the description of the different types of boards throughout the City and how the City Secretary's Office manages this process on behalf of the Council.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Attorney Charles Anderson read the Mayor and Council into Executive Session at 1:40 PM.

- 7 Legal Advice - City of Hugo v. Nichols, et al.  
Texas Open Meetings Act § 551.071

Mayor Gears announced that the Council will now reconvene in Open Session. The time was 2:03 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.

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Herbert A. Gears, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Janice Carroll, TRMC  
City Secretary