

**WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE IRVING CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2010**

The Irving City Council met in work session February 3, 2010. The following members were present/absent:

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Herbert Gears	Irving City Council	Mayor	Present	
Beth Van Duyne	Irving City Council	Councilwoman	Present	
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	Present	
Rose Cannaday	Irving City Council	Councilwoman	Present	
Thomas Spink	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	

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

DISCUSSION TOPIC

1 Introduction of City Council Cycle Participants

Executive Assistant Linda Murray presented the City Council Cycle Participants, Business Manager Jane Kilburn and Senior Civil Engineer Wayne Lee.

2 Review of Regular Agenda

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

- 15** City Attorney Charles Anderson stated that the order to call the election was placed on the agenda in anticipation that the city will receive a ruling from the federal court on the Benavidez case. This can be discussed further in executive session.

- 17** Ordinance - Final Reading - Amending Chapter 52 Entitled "Water and Sewer Rates" of the Code of Civil and Criminal Ordinances of the City of Irving, Texas Providing for New Monthly Water and Sewer Rates; Providing for a New Maximum Monthly Service Charge; Providing an Effective Date; and Providing a Severability Clause

Mayor Gears asked that this item be postponed to allow for further review of a rate increase during the 2010 – 2011 budget process. Mayor Gears stated that although the city has been able to keep the water rates low, incremental increases to water rates will be necessary to deal with the rising need to replace old water pipes.

Councilwoman Cannaday stated that it will be important to educate the community in the upcoming months and provide the information necessary to fully understand conditions of the pipes.

Councilman Philipp asked that a plan be developed to identify steps the city will take to make the information available to the public.

Councilwoman Cannaday, Chairperson of the Council's Communications Committee will continue to work with staff on various communication avenues to provide information on this issue to the community.

- 18** Ordinance - Final Reading - Amending Section 34A-180 of Chapter 34A Entitled "Right-of-Way Management" of the Code of Civil and Criminal Ordinances of the City of Irving, Texas, Providing for Franchise Fees on Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Refuse Pickup Service; Providing an Effective Date; and Providing a Severability Clause.

Mayor Gears stated that this item will be postponed as well for further review during the budget process.

- 19** Resolution - Approving Special Sign Permit No. S0909-0033 to install a Digital Sign Located at 208 South Story Road - Terry Waldrum, Applicant Representing Gracepointe Church, Owner

Chief Planner Kenneth Bloom presented this case.

Councilman Philipp asked how long it has taken to go through the process for this digital sign permit.

Mr. Bloom reported that the staff has been working with the applicant for approximately 9 months.

Councilman Philipp asked if the staff was working on an ordinance with guidelines that will reduce the time to process a special sign permit. He asked if the revised guidelines would assist in processing the applicant for this item.

Real Estate and Development Director Brenda McDonald stated that staff has been working on developing standards for digital monument signs thus giving the applicants guidelines to follow and allow approval of the digital monument signs at staff level. Although this applicant has been through the current process, staff will review to determine if any steps can be revised to reduce time in processing this application.

Councilman Philipp wants the city to maintain quality standards that are clearly defined for the applicants.

- 21** Resolution - Approving Special Sign Permit No. S0912-0042 to Install Full Color LED Digital Sign - Located at 1144 East Irving Boulevard - Alaniz Auto Ranch, Inc., Applicant - Robert Alaniz, Owner

Chief Planner Kenneth Bloom presented this case.

Mr. Bloom stated that staff met with the applicant earlier this date and an agreement was made to reduce the sign from nine feet tall to seven feet tall, the width would remain six feet. The base of the sign was also reduced to one foot. The revised design of the sign will be provided to the council members.

Councilman Patrick asked if approval of the sign has prevented the business from opening.

Mr. Bloom stated that the process has not delayed opening of the business; however, the owner has been addressing other issues with the property.

- 23** Resolution - Approving Special Sign Permit No. S0912-0049 to Install a Digital Sign Located at 5151 Regent Boulevard - Universal Technical Institute, Applicant/Owner

Chief Planner Kenneth Bloom presented on this case.

Councilwoman Beth Van Duyne asked when staff will present on proposed amendments to the sign ordinance and noted that this agenda has five items on digital signs.

Mrs. McDonald stated that staff expects to present on monument signs in June of this year. She added that the items for the current agenda were previously scheduled and staff wanted to be fair to the applicants and move forward with this process. Staff expects to present proposed digital sign guidelines to the Planning and Zoning Commission in March or April and to the City Council in June.

Councilwoman Van Duyne asked how many more cases for digital signs are scheduled for upcoming agendas and if those cases can be placed on hold until standards are established.

Mr. Bloom stated that he has not received any additional applications for permits.

- 24** Ordinance - Zoning Case #ZC09-0066 - Granting S-P-1 (Detailed Site Plan) for Grocery Store - Approximately 1.7 Acres Located at 912 East Irving Boulevard (Southwest Corner of Irving Boulevard and Third Street) - ALDI, Inc., Applicant - SDNarod Enterprises, Owner

Mr. Bloom presented on this item.

Don Williams provided a statement regarding the Chamber of Commerce viewpoint on this case. The Chamber welcomes Aldi to the City of Irving however agrees with city staff that this type of store would not fit with the plans for new development in the Heritage Crossing area.

Mayor Gears stated that the issues in this case are inadequate parking and the physical layout of the store for this location. Mayor Gears cautioned staff about discussions regarding the type of store or the low cost of its items.

- 29** Resolution - Appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees, to fill Various Unexpired Terms for the Following: Advisory Committee on Disabilities and Housing and Human Services Board

Councilman Philipp asked about the status on applicants for the Arts Board Citizens' Input Panel.

City Secretary Janice Carroll stated that those appointments will be placed on the Feb. 18 agenda however very few applications have been submitted.

Councilman Philipp asked what was needed to increase the number of interested applicants.

Arts Center Director Richard Huff stated that the goal is get input from citizens who are not currently involved in the arts to determine how the Arts Center can better serve additional areas in the community.

- 3** 2010 Bond Sale Results and Value of current rating

Beth Bankhead, First Southwest, presented the results of the bond sale held on January 13, 2010 as well as the value of the current ratings. She stated that the City issued two types of debt, General Obligation Bonds and Municipal Utility Debt.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Attorney Charles Anderson read the Mayor and Council into Executive Session at 12:33 p.m.

- 5 City Attorney – Personnel
Texas Open Meetings Act § 551.074
- 6 Legal Advice - Benavidez v. City of Irving
Texas Open Meetings Act § 551.071

Mayor Gears announced that the Council will now reconvene in Open Session. The time was 2:28 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Herbert A. Gears, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janice Carroll, TRMC
City Secretary