

MINUTES - Special City Council Meeting
Saturday, December 14, 2002

Mayor Nations called the meeting to order at 8:30am. The following individuals were also in attendance: Councilmembers Barry Flachsbart, Jane Durrell, Barry Streeter, Bruce Geiger, Dan Hurt, Mike Casey, Mary Brown and Connie Fults; City Administrator Mike Herring; City Attorney Doug Beach; Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mike Geisel; Deputy Director of Public Works/Assistant City Engineer Brian McGownd; and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Darren Dunkle. Also in attendance were Mr. Bob Buck, Chairperson of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee (PRACAC), various members of the PRACAC and one other resident.

Mayor Nations asked that each Councilmember to summarize the "issues", and indicate, from each of their perspectives, what needs to happen next. General discussion ensued. The following is a summary of the various comments that were made, without repeating similar comments and without any prioritization:

"Additional funding is needed, in order to purchase land and to improve upon the existing City Parks." "The recent study, completed by Leisure Vision, reflects the wishes of our residents and should be followed as we plan for the future." "We need a long-range timeline." "We need to agree on a specific revenue source." "There are many needs for 'active recreation'." "If an election is needed, in order to approve a new revenue source, we need to select a 'major, national election date', in order to guarantee the highest voter turnout." "The City has no additional funds to allocate to parks/recreation." "The City's revenues are very flat and during the recent budget process, many cuts were made." "It was probably fortuitous that an election was not scheduled for November, 2002, given the state of the economy and the failure of many "tax" issues nationwide." "Sales tax was identified by the study as the revenue source with the most support." "Any plan needs to include enough money to cover the current and future cost of operations/maintenance of all facilities." "We need to construct/establish trails." "There needs to be complete agreement regarding any plan pursued for parks/recreation, especially if it includes an election." "The current Master Plan for parks/recreation needs to be amended to reflect the recommendations contained within the consultant's report."

Based upon all of this discussion, the following motions were made:

A motion was made by Councilmember Hurt, seconded by Councilmember Streeter, to use sales tax as one funding mechanism for parks/recreation. This motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flachsbart, seconded by Councilmember Durrell, that there should be a "sunset" provision attached to any new tax, except that portion dedicated to operation/maintenance. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hurt, seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart, to direct Staff to prepare an analysis, which will include all of the following: information

regarding the annual revenue that could be generated from either a 1/4 cent or a 1/2 cent sales tax, as well as the estimated total amount of bonds that each tax could finance; information regarding the implications to the average resident, in terms of annual cost, for both the 1/4 and 1/2 cent sales tax; and, information regarding the legality/implication of a "sunset" provision and if bonds could be sold with such a provision included, if the "sunset" is of a long enough term. This motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hurt, seconded by Councilmember Streeter, to schedule the election for a sales tax in November, 2004, in conjunction with the national election. This motion passed by a vote of 8-0. It was noted that, "if possible", this election could be scheduled sooner and that "other" revenue sources might be included, along with a sales tax.

A motion was made by Councilmember Streeter, seconded by Councilmember Hurt, to direct Staff and the PRACAC to develop a "key events" timetable, based upon a November, 2004, election. This motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart, to direct Staff and the PRACAC to update the 1998 "Parks Master Plan", in accordance with Leisure Visions' findings/recommendations. This motion passed by a vote of 8-0. It was noted that there are no funds available to cover any of this expense, hence the direction that it be done in-house.

A motion was made by Councilmember Flachsbart, seconded by Councilmember Hurt, to direct Staff to study a variety of questions regarding property tax: Can such a tax be applied ONLY to commercial property? How much would each \$.01 of property tax generate, if applied only to commercial property and/or if applied to all property? How much does each \$.01 cost the "average resident"? How much has the total assessed valuation increased, since incorporation, and what is the average, annual rate of increase?

Mayor Nations directed that "updates" regarding all of these questions/issues be added to ALL future "Work Session" agendas, for EACH City Council meeting, until further notice.

Mayor Nations thanked everyone for attending and then adjourned the meeting at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Herring
City Administrator