

Governance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

3:30 P.M.

City Hall Media Briefing Room

Members Present: Mayor Edward Garza
Councilmember Richard Perez, District 4
Councilmember Julian Castro, District 7
Councilmember Art Hall, District 8
Councilmember Carroll Schubert, District 9

Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Rolando Bono, Interim City Manager; Erik Walsh, Asst. to City Manager; Melissa Vossmer, Asst. City Manager; Andrew Martin, City Attorney; Milo Nitschke, Director of Finance; Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works; Doug Yerkes, City Engineer; Mike Gonzaba, Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation; Yolanda Ledesma, Asst. City Clerk; Martha Sepeda, First Asst. City Attorney; Patricia Major, City Auditor; Nim Kidd, District Fire Chief

I. Approval of the Minutes for the meetings of February 4, 5, 12, 2004 and March 3, 4, 18, 2004.

Councilman Perez made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections submitted by the City Auditor, Councilman Hall seconded the motion. The committee members unanimously approved the minutes.

IV. Discussion regarding the Vested Rights Task Force recommendation to Council on the proposed amendments to the Unified Development Code establishing procedures and standards for recognition of rights under Chapter 245 of the Texas Local Government Code ("vested rights") and related issues; Presented by Andrew Martin, City Attorney.

Councilman Schubert stated the Task Force had met today and had not finished their work or made a recommendation. He added that the Task Force has scheduled another meeting for next week in an effort to finish their report.

II. Briefing by staff on the status of Emergency Operations Center bond project; Presented by Doug Yerkes, City Engineer, Public Works Department; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager; and District Fire Chief Nim Kidd, Emergency Operations Coordinator; Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager.

Mr. Doug Yerkes made a presentation on the project, outlining the stakeholders, core partners, EOC liaisons, bond funding - delineating the financial breakdown for the respective costs.

Mr. Doug Lowe, Ross & Barruzini, spoke to the experience of their firm and cited the noted projects they had been involved with specifically highlighting their focus on user requirements, facility needs, and technology to provide the most effective operation.

Mr. Yerkes further spoke to the other sub-consultants involved in the project. He amplified on the various phases of the project, adding that the weekly meetings would be held to address concerns and focus on program issues, conceptual design, technical requirements, budget allocations, and balancing the budget.

Mr. Lowe spoke to the design build to be completed efficiently and within the budget. He emphasized that the City would define needs and requirements which was key to avoiding alterations or additions. He further amplified on the space summary noting that it was over 35,700 square feet of space.

Mr. Yerkes expanded on the various phases and associated timelines, architectural and engineering fees, the basic services, additional services related specifically to the EOC, the City-County agreements, views of the site and floor plan. He stated that the County had approved the project as presented.

In response to Mayor Garza regarding the RFP process, Mr. Yerkes stated it would take one month to evaluate the proposals, then begin negotiation with the scope of contract. He further spoke to the subcontractors with respect to overlap of construction.

In response to Mayor Garza regarding innovations presented by the contractor, Mr. Tom Wendorf stated the innovations could be considered as a means to reduce costs.

In response to Mayor Garza, City Manager Rolando Bono recommended to proceed in presenting it to the full Council.

III. Briefing on future bond issuances; Presented by Milo Nitschke, Director of Finance Department; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager.

Mr. Milo Nitschke presented the bond issuances through June 2005. He stated the market was very sensitive, adding there was a possibility that the Mayor's Office may be contacted with respect to the City Manager or other City departments on various issues. He presented the various bond issuances and associated timelines. He spoke to the Pension Obligation Bonds and that the Pension Board would be presented the information to see if they wished to pursue the sale.

Mr. Paul Martin spoke to the declaratory judgement in order to get bonds approved. He defined what the declaratory judgement was and the means to obtain it. He recommended that an agreement be completed with the Pension Fund Board before proceeding with anything else.

In response to Councilman Perez with respect to authorization, Mr. Jorge Rodriguez, Financial Adviser stated that the Pension Board needed to accept funds from the bonds, and recommended that they not be sold until there was confirmation of acceptance. He further spoke to the unfunded liability and debt service payment.

Mr. Erik Walsh, Assistant to City Manager, further clarified on the process. He further noted that the increase of benefit changes to the Pension Fund goes back to Austin. He ascertained that the key element to address with the Board was to get concurrence to get adjustments to the contribution rate.

Councilman Hall stated that he felt the Board would approve the sale, especially with the cost savings to be achieved.

Mayor Garza recommended that staff go to the Pension Fund Board and get reaction

Mr. Rodriguez reiterated on the large amount of savings to the taxpayers, however noted that the Board had to concur with the recommendation.

Mr. Nitschke stated that the Board would meet on March 22, and that after the meeting a report to the Council would be made.

V. AGENDA PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

A. Discussion and consideration of a request to declare an event to be held at Eisenhower Park on May 21, 2005 with the PetPals organization, to be an official City sponsored event and waive all fees associated with said event; as requested by Councilmember Art Hall, District 8.

Mr. Mike Gonzaba delineated the fees which were contingent upon the number of attendees, and the number of security personnel needed also contingent upon the number in attendance.

Councilman Hall made a motion to proceed to A Session. Councilman Perez seconded the motion. Committee members unanimously approved the motion, except for Councilman Schubert who was absent.

B. Discussion and consideration of the request to create a temporary seven member Crime Control and Prevention District Board of Directors as requested by Councilmember Ron Segovia, District 3.

Councilman Hall made a motion to proceed to A Session. Councilman Castro seconded the motion.

In response to Mr. Perez regarding the calling of the election, City Attorney Andrew Martin stated the Board once created was authorized to call the election.

Ms. Martha Sepeda, First Assistant City Attorney, explained the process for the Crime Control District and its creation. In response to Councilman Hall regarding the replacement of members, Ms. Sepeda stated that the City Council appoints the members.

Councilman Perez also spoke to a previous discussion regarding the funds and the timeline for the City's general fund to absorb the staff, and further noted that he preferred the recommendation made by the Crime Commission.

After discussion, the Committee members unanimously approved the motion to proceed to A Session, except for Councilman Schubert who was absent.

C. Discussion and consideration of the installation of a traffic signal at Southwell, Golden Quail and Huebner Road, as requested by Councilmember Art Hall, District 8.

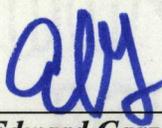
Councilman Hall made a motion to proceed to A Session. Councilman Perez seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the motion, except Councilman Schubert who was absent.

VI. Consideration of scheduling of items for future meetings.

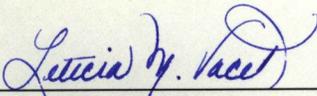
Councilman Perez spoke to the issue of the large amount of detention ponds in District 4. He requested that City staff present a briefing on the subject, specifically on the use of the dollars.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 P.M.

(* Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request.)



Mayor Edward Garza, Chairman



Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk