

**MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
SPECIAL WORKSHOP
City Council/Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McDonald called the Special Workshop of the Delano City Council/Economic Development Authority of Tuesday, February 23, 2010 to order at 6:02 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Joe McDonald, Mayor
Holly Schrupp, Council Member
Brad Hotchkiss, Council Member
Larry Bartels, Council Member
Betsy Stolfa, Council Member

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Phil Kern, City Administrator
Brian Bloch, Finance Director
Ernie Eden, Public Works Director
Tim Schrupp, Public Works
Paula Bauman, Recorder

3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Discuss Bridge Avenue Monuments.

Phil Kern updated Council on the Bridge Avenue monuments. Kern stated the monuments are the artists' concepts and are not yet complete. By mid to late March the monuments will have the words "City of Delano" and "Established 1876" engraved into the stone. There were some changes made by the artist during construction which the committee did not previously approve; Kern discussed the changes. Request for public comment regarding the monuments were posted on the City website and Facebook; Kern reviewed the six comments submitted. Staff is looking for direction. Council discussed the public comments and the design of the monuments; discussion included placement, style of the monuments and the use of rebar. Council then discussed the landscaping plan and use of ivy around the monuments. Consensus of Council was to look at the completed monuments for further discussion. No motion taken.

B. Update on 2010 Flooding Potential.

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Phil Kern discussed the flood warnings received from the National Weather Service. Staff has been getting prepared for any minor and/or major flooding that could develop. The Public Works department has been checking into sandbags and getting contacts for additional equipment if required. Council discussed previous year's floods which included 1965, 1997, 2001 and 2003 and what was done during those floods. Kern recapped areas that have been improved since those floods which included sewer improvements and lifts stations. Bob VanLith stated in the 2001 flood - an area of the levee eroded and boulders were dropped in to stabilize it. Staff will continue to monitor the levee and are preparing in case a similar situation happens. During previous floods a member of public works staff would monitor the levees 24 hours a day. Staff is recommending using members of the CERTS group to team up with Public Works and ride along during those shifts to help in case of emergencies. Council discussed drafting a policy in regards to flooding to ensure staff and the public understand the role of the City and flood protection. This would include having contact names and number for people who need assistance. Staff will continue to monitor the flood forecasts and update council as needed.

C. Discuss compensation plan.

Phil Kern recapped the February 16 City Council meeting where Council suggested looking at the compensation plan for the new Public Works Maintenance position. Council reviewed the current compensation plan for all departments; which consists of 9 steps. All employees start at step one and at each anniversary can be moved to the next step for satisfactory work throughout the year. Phil Kern stressed that for the last two years Council has frozen the step system due to budget restraints. Council discussed creating a step "0" for a probationary period. Council then discussed the benefits package for all full time employees and discussed the situation of employees doing the same job while making different wages. Council then discussed the difference between a step increase and a cost of living increase.

D. Discuss Draft Assessment Policy.

Phil Kern discussed the draft assessment policy and questioned Council for any thoughts or concerns regarding it. Council discussed the assessment of business at 70% whereas homeowners are assessed 50% stating this information needs to be given to the residents. Council discussed holding open houses for residents and discussed the possibility of open houses done each time a road construction project is done and assessments are needed. Phil Kern stated the City can only assess a property owner once every twenty years. Council discussed payment of assessments.

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E. Discuss Rivertown project details.

Council discussed the list price for the remaining Rowhomes. The realtor recommended listing the homes for \$150,000. Council discussed the costs of the Rowhomes and project funding. Consensus of Council was to keep the list price at \$164,900. No motion taken.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss the Special Workshop of the Delano City Council/Economic Development Authority meeting of Tuesday, February 23, 2010 was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Joe McDonald, Mayor

Marlene E. Kittock, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Paula Bauman, Recorder