

**BRYAN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
MAY 10, 2016**

The Bryan City Council held a workshop meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Bryan Municipal Building, a notice of said meeting having been posted at least 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code. Mayor Jason Bienski and Councilmembers Mike Southerland, Ben Hardeman and Buppy Simank were present. Councilmembers Al Saenz and Rafael Peña arrived at 2:50 p.m. Councilmember Greg Owens arrived at 3:07 p.m. Also present were Deputy City Manager Hugh Walker, City Attorney Janis Hampton and Assistant City Secretary Christina Cabrera.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:46 p.m.

**2. PRESENTATION BY COUNCILMEMBER SOUTHERLAND REGARDING POSSIBLE USES OF EFFLUENT**

Councilmember Southerland gave a brief update regarding the possible uses of effluent, including providing effluent to cities that may need it, particularly coastal cities. He added a proposed contract for the sale of effluent would be brought before Council for consideration by the second Council meeting in May 2016.

**3. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING OPTIONS FOR SANDY POINT ROAD**

Dr. Jayson Barfknecht, Director of Public Works, presented information to answer questions raised at the March 22, 2016, Council meeting regarding a proposed Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) project on Sandy Point Road. Information regarding the proposed roadway elements, project limits, traffic counts, project ranking in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and funding were presented. He added Council adopted a Capital Improvement Plan for 2016-2020 on September 22, 2015. Dr. Barfknecht pointed out this project was not part of the funded projects in the approved CIP plan and there were 42 unfunded projects ranked ahead of this project in the data base. Dr. Barfknecht stated funding was approximately \$1.1 million short for currently approved CIP projects. Dr. Barfknecht provided Council with possible funding options and called for questions. Discussion followed regarding funding options. Dr. Barfknecht clarified that the original proposed agreement with TxDOT was for the City to pay \$250,000 toward construction costs of a \$1 million project, and also pay the full design costs. He advised the total contribution needed from the City to move forward with the project was actually estimated to be between \$400,000 and \$500,000. He also stated Council direction was needed relative to closing railroad crossings after receiving public input. Council discussion continued regarding funding options and ranking of capital improvement projects.

**4. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING LIFE SAFETY PROGRAM**

Development Services Director Kevin Russell introduced the presentation by providing a brief explanation of the purpose of the program, that being to address the redevelopment of existing older structures with life safety (building and fire code) issues in downtown Bryan. Stephanie Doland, Staff Planner, presented information regarding the Downtown Life Safety Program. She advised the goal of the program would be to provide financial assistance for the renovations to achieve compliance with

the International Building Code fire suppression and safety code requirements. Council was informed the program was also designed to encourage elimination of conditions that could be harmful to public health, safety and welfare, and to encourage economic and business development in downtown Bryan. She reported qualifying downtown businesses could be awarded up to 50% or \$25,000 per life safety improvement and would be required to match funds dollar for dollar. This financial assistance from the City may allow businesses to open downtown that would otherwise be unable to without life safety improvements. Ms. Doland then detailed the eligible improvements, applicant requirements and proposed eligible areas. Ms. Doland noted there were two properties currently interested in this program. She asked for Council's input regarding the grant amount, funding limits, grant review panel, allocation of funds, grant application approval and eligible area. Mr. Russell and Ms. Doland answered Council's questions. Council encouraged staff to move forward with the new program and bring back an agenda item for consideration, including options for no-interest loans, low-interest loans or tax rebate, in addition to the matching grants to provide financial assistance.

## **5. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING ETHICS POLICY TRAINING**

City Internal Auditor Bob Shultz presented information regarding ethics policy training for the City's board, commission and committee members. He advised training began after Council approved the ethics policy on March 26, 2013. Mr. Shultz reported he attends the Texas Open Meetings Act training provided by the City Secretary to new board, commission and committee members, where he also provides training on conflicts of interest and the ethics policy. It was added each board, commission and committee may request ethics policy training from the Legal Department at any of their meetings. It was reported the Planning and Zoning Commission had received such training from the City's Legal staff. Mr. Shultz stated he would like to provide more training opportunities and intended to make available an ethics policy training video on the City's website. Mr. Shultz then answered questions from Council. Council asked questions regarding documentation of training and specific topics included in the training. Mr. Shultz clarified that this would not take the place of the Texas Open Meetings Act training but is intended to compliment that training. Mr. Shultz reminded Councilmembers they were able to review and change the ethics policy.

## **6. DISCUSSION REGARDING CONSENT/STATUTORY AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 10, 2016**

Council briefly discussed items 10 b and 11 a of the consent/statutory agenda for the regular meeting of May 10, 2016. Item 11c on the statutory agenda was removed from consideration at staff's request. No action was taken regarding the items discussed.

## **7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Council committee reports.

## **8. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

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City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta

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Mayor Jason P. Bienski