



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BENBROOK CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Benbrook City Council was held on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:30 p. m. in the Council Chambers at 911 Winscott Road with the following Council members present:

Jerry Dittrich
Keith Bailey
Rickie Allison
Mark Washburn
Ron Sauma

Also Present:

Andy Wayman, City Manager
Joanna King, City Secretary
Dave Gattis, Deputy City Manager
David Ragsdale, Comptroller
James Mills, Police Chief

Others Present:

Ed Gallagher, City Planner
Tommy Davis, Fire Chief
Bob Rowley, City Engineer
Bill Smith
Jim Wilson
Karen Barber
Jess Jordan
Joy and Bernie Grahm
and two other citizens

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p. m. by Mayor Dittrich.

**II. INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation was given by Mr. Bill Smith
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 5, 2009

Motion by Mr. Washburn, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held February 5, 2009.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

IV. PRESENTATION BY MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

CC-2009-05 Accept resignation from Steve White, EDC Board of Directors and determine method to fill vacancy

Motion by Mr. Sauma, seconded by Mr. Allison to accept the resignation from Steve White, EDC Board of Directors and to direct staff to contact past applicants for EDC to schedule interview session.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Motion carries unanimously.

V. PROCLAMATION/AWARD/RECOGNITION

1. Proclamation – American Red Cross Month

Mayor Dittrich read a proclamation designation March as American Red Cross Month. Joy and Bernie Graham accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Chisholm Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross.

VI. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER

A. GENERAL

G-1834 Accept Financial report for month ending January 31, 2009

Mr. Ragsdale gave the following report: General Fund Revenues for the month of January totaled \$3,402,580. Property tax collections, as well as total collections, exceed the prior year's totals by \$764,782.

January General Fund Expenditures were 1,140,975. Year-to-date expenditures amounted to \$4,322,084. Through January, revenues exceed expenditures by \$3,682,692.

Investments were \$15,935,050 at January 31, 2009.

Motion by Mr. Allison, seconded by Mr. Sauma to accept the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2009 as presented.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

G-1835 Accept Hotel/Motel Tax report for period ending December 31, 2008

Mr. Ragsdale gave the following report: The opening balance on October 1 was \$413,007 with Hotel/Motel Tax receipts of \$36,506. Heritage Fest 2008 receipts totaled \$652 and interest amounted to \$3,099.

Total expenses were \$49,320. The HMOT balance was \$404,943 at December 31, 2008.

Most of the money raised for Heritage Fest was in the prior year while most of the expenses (\$21,188) were in the current year. Heritage Fest actually had a small profit that will go into Heritage Fest 2009.

The Visitor Center had salaries and expenses totaling \$19,433.

VSA submitted expenses of \$722.

Motel 6 submitted \$7,978 in advertising expenses.

Motion by Mr. Allison, seconded by Mr. Washburn to approve the Hotel/Motel Tax report for the period ending December 31, 2008 and authorize staff to make the reimbursements requested.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

G-1836 Adopt Resolution supporting Cities Aggregation Power Project (CAPP) Legislative Agenda

Mr. Ragsdale gave the following report: The City of Benbrook is a member of Cities Aggregation Power Project, Inc. (CAPP). The CAPP Board of Directors has voted to authorize certain legislative effort on behalf of its members during the 81st Texas Legislative Session.

The discussion is in regard to Senate Bill 7, the State's electric deregulation law that was adopted in 1999. The legislation expanded competition in the wholesale electricity market and opened the door to competition among electric retailers. Proponents of the legislation promised lower electric prices.

Unfortunately, the reality has been otherwise. Although Texans paid electric prices well below the national average during the decade before Senate Bill 7 was passed, customers in deregulated parts of the State now pay prices above the national average.

Legislative change is necessary to better protect cities' budgets, enhance cities' ability to protect their citizens, and increase competition among retail providers. The CAPP Board resolution proposes changes to current law.

Motion by Mr. Allison, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adopt resolution 2009-04 supporting Cities Aggregation Power Project Legislative Agenda.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution 2009-04 being "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BENBROOK, TEXAS, ENDORSING CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVE ELECTRIC MARKET SUPPORTED BY CITIES AGGREGATION POWER PROJECT, INC.

G-1837 Recommend contractor for 34th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project

Mr. Gattis gave the following report: City Council held a public hearing in January 2008 to consider projects for the 34th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. The approved project is the construction of sidewalks and curb ramps on the west side of Usher Street from Childers Street to Cozby North Street, the east side of Bryant Street from Childers Street to Cozby North Street and the west side of Bryant Street from Childers Street to Davidson Street, in Benbrook Lakeside Addition.

Tarrant County opened bids for the project on February 4, 2009 and received 13 bids.

Procon Paving and Construction, Inc. bid \$61,400 for the project. The City's estimate for the project was \$78,460.

The City has not worked with Procon Paving and Construction, Inc. in the past. Staff checked references on Procon and did not receive any negative comments.

The City's allocation of funds for the 34th year is \$74,917. The City agreed to provide engineering for the project as matching funds. The low bid for the project is \$61,400.

Motion by Mr. Sauma, seconded by Mr. Allison to recommend that Tarrant County award the 34th Year Community Development Block Grant project in the amount of \$61,400 to Procon Paving and Construction, Inc.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

VII. STAFF BRIEFING

1. Mobile Video Camera System

Chief Mills gave the following briefing: The Police Department purchased the first in-car video camera system in 1996. The cameras were initially installed only in supervisor's vehicles. By 2003, all patrol vehicles were equipped with the in-car camera system.

The camera systems were purchases in 2002 and 2003. The units are a VHS System truck mount. Problems with the VHS System include:

- Systems are out of warranty
- VCR and videotapes are susceptible to heat
- Storage, retrieval and disposal of videotapes is time consuming and unreliable
- Videotapes may fill up and stop recording during an incident
- Videos are often poor quality
- Videotapes are expensive
- Police Department has limited storage space for videotapes

The 2008-09 budget authorized the purchase of five (5) new camera systems to replace the aging VHS units. The systems were purchased from L-3 Mobile Vision and will be installed in all five (5) new patrol vehicles. The department plans to replace the remaining VHS Systems as new patrol units are purchased.

Features of the L-3 Mobile Vision include:

- Automatic wireless transfer
- Dedicated server
- GPS and radar interfaces
- DVD Robot for automated back-up of recordings and burn and label DVD's for easy storage and retrieval.

VIII. INFORMAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. followed by a worksession to discuss policies for street closures and block parties.

APPROVED:

Jerry B. Dittrich, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joanna King, City Secretary