MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF THE
BENBROOK CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007

The regular meeting of the Benbrook City Council was held on Thursday, December 20, 2007 at 7:30 p. m. in the Council Chambers at 911 Winscott Road with the following Council members present:

Jerry Dittrich
Rickie Allison
Keith Bailey
Ron Sauma
James Schull
Dan Tully
Larry Stowe

Also Present:
Dave Gattis, Deputy City Manager
Joanna King, City Secretary
Tommy Davis, Fire Chief

Others Present:
Ed Gallagher, Planner
Cathy Morris, Administrative Analyst
James Mills, Police Chief
David Babcock, Mike Ford, Bill Cooper and Dawn Koniezcny with Police Department
Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey "Red" White
Bill Smith
Joel Peel
And 6 members of COPS

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation given by Councilmember Larry Stowe
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 6, 2007

Motion by Mr. Sauma, seconded by Mr. Tully approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 6, 2007 as presented.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

IV. PROCLAMATION/AWARDS/RECOGNITION

1. Proclamation Recognizing Service of Aubrey "Red" White

Mayor Dittrich presented Mr. Aubrey "Red" White with proclamation recognizing his dedicated service to the Benbrook Citizens on Patrol (COP) program.

V. PRESENTATION BY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

VI. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER

A. GENERAL

G-1750 Financial Report for Month of November 2007

Mr. Gattis gave the following report: General Fund Revenues for the month of November totaled $796,472. Year to date collections are $73,090 ahead of last year. General Fund Expenditures totaled $1,251,244. At November 30, 2007 monthly expenditures exceeded revenues by $454,772.

Benbrook Economic Development Corporation revenues were $93,627 while expenditures were $157.487.

Investments were $10,164,355 at November 30, 2007. This entire amount is available immediately if needed.

Motion by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Schull to accept the financial report for the period ending November 30, 2007.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Scull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

G-1751 Authorize Agreement with North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) to be 3rd Party Vendor for TollTags

Mr. Gattis gave the following report: Tolltags are electronic transponders that allow vehicles to use toll facilities without paying cash. The tolls are deducted from a deposit account. Tolltags can be used on NTTA facilities (Dallas North Tollway, President George Bush Turnpike, and future Southwest Parkway). Tolltags can also be used on other toll roads in Texas (TxDOT, Houston, San Antonio) and DFW Airport and Love Field parking.

Tolltags are currently available at the Tolltag Store in Plano and via Internet and U.S. Mail. The current third party vendors are located in the Dallas area.

Currently there are 313 Tolltag users in Benbrook. Many more are expected when the Southwest Parkway (SH121-T) opens in 2010.

The City's obligation as a third party vendor is to market service availability, secure funds and unsold Tolltags, and provide reports. NTTA's obligation is to provide Tolltags and promotional materials and pay the City $5.00 per tag.

Motion by Mr. Stowe, seconded by Mr. Allison to authorize the City Manager to execute the Nonexclusive Distribution Agreement with North Texas Tollway Authority to become a third party vendor for Tolltags.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

G-1752 Consider Projects and Call Public Hearing for 34th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

Mr. Gattis gave the following report: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a federal program to benefit low to moderate income residents. Benbrook has received $3 million in funding since 1975.

The 33rd Year project is sidewalks on Warden and Wade Hampton Streets. A citizen survey is currently underway. The 34th Year application is due on January 31, 2008.

Eligible activities for the CDBG program include:

- Streets
- Water and sewer lines
- Sidewalks
- Removal of architectural barriers
- Build or expand senior citizens centers

Target areas are now "Service Areas"

- Must show that project serves at least 48.9% of low-moderate income population, or handicapped, or senior citizens.

The project award is approximately $90,000 to $100,000. The possible programs for the 34th Year CDBG are new sidewalks on the target area or to pave the alley between Mercedes Street and Cozby North.

Other possibilities include:

- Additional senior and handicapped transit service
- Housing rehabilitation
- Meals on Wheels

Staff is recommending that City Council tentatively designate sidewalks on Bryant and Usher Street as the 34th Year CDBG Project.

Motion by Mr. Sauma, seconded by Mr. Tully to designate Sidewalks on Bryant and Usher Street as the 34th Year CDBG project and schedule a public hearing on January 3, 2008 to receive public comment.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

B. CONTRACT

C-231 Contract for Fire and EMS Service for Tarrant County Emergency Service District #1

Tommy Davis gave the following report: For a number of years, Tarrant County has engaged the Benbrook Fire Department to provide fire and first responder services to portions of unincorporated Tarrant County. Tarrant County's recent efforts to provide third party ambulance service to the southwest corner of Tarrant County has not been successful. As a result, Tarrant County ESD officials requested Benbrook's assistance on a temporary basis pending City Council formal consideration.

Previously, Benbrook responded via ambulance to the County without compensation other than the EMS bill sent to the patient. The bills were difficult to collect and Benbrook eventually stopped providing the service in 1997. Through the proposed contract, Tarrant County ESD has increased the current EMS budget to make it more feasible to Benbrook to provide ambulance service to the County. Staff now believes that Tarrant County ESD would adequately compensate Benbrook for transporting county patients to area hospitals.

The City last renewed the annual fire service agreement with Tarrant County in December 2006 and the last EMS contact was in 1997.

Contract continuation is beneficial to Benbrook for the following reasons:

- The 2007/2008 rate of compensation for fire service ($82,500) adequately compensates the City for services rendered.
- Provision of the County provided super tanker precludes the purchase of this apparatus by Benbrook citizens.
- Provision of a County provided brush truck precludes the purchase of this apparatus by Benbrook citizens.
- Tarrant County supplies two thermal imaging cameras.
- The 2007/2008 contract includes a grant from the district of $19,800 for the purchase and replacement of SCBA bottles.
- The 2007/2008 rate of compensation for EMS service (from points) is estimated to be $45,000, plus the amount the City collects through standard EMS billing.
- The 2007/2008 contract period for EMS includes a $26,963 rant to purchase a 12 lead cardiac monitor. This precludes the purchase of EMS equipment by Benbrook citizens.
- The total cash reimbursement from the County to the City would be approximately $130,000.

Staff believes the services rendered through the contract will not adversely impact the City's ability to provide a continued high level of response to Benbrook citizens.

Motion by Mr. Allison, seconded by Mr. Schull to approve the proposed contract for fire and EMS services for the assigned area of Tarrant County Emergency Services District #1 for fiscal year 2007-2008.

Vote on the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Schull, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Allison, Mayor Dittrich, Mr. Tully, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Sauma

Noes: None

Motion carries unanimously.

VII. OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS

VIII. INFORMAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

APPROVED:

_____
Jerry B. Dittrich, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Joanna King, City Secretary