Minutes of Planning Workshop held September 26, 2011

Planning workshop with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Ruble Farmer, Ward Sanders, Jerry Stone, Kevin Keith, Sam Cortez; City Secretary Josie Campa; Director of Public Works James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Library Director, Cassandra Cortez; Fire Marshal Matt Dear.

Visitors: James La Combe, Chuck Bayne, Sam Parks.

Mayor Bowen opened the planning workshop at 7:50 p.m.

Council reviewed the plans and goals set up for the next five years, and discussed all the goals that were accomplished and status of other goals.

Alderman Sanders told Council that the goals not achieved in 2010-2011 were moved forward to 2011-2012. He said he would make a new list for this time period.

Alderman Stone told Council he knows that there are some people wanting to give money for the sports complex. Mayor Bowen said he is pursuing different avenues since there are no state funds for this project.

Alderman Sanders told Council he feels the new city hall should be moved up for security and safety reason.

Council discussed getting land for a new city hall and that once this is done, architects be hired.

Alderman Keith told Council he feels the master plan for the city should be looked into and agreed to find someone to do this. Council agreed to contact other cities about their master plans.

Alderman Sanders told Council that more should be expected from employees since salaries were increased and that maybe their evaluations should be changed to reflect this.

Alderman Sanders told Council that the new entrance to the park needs to be added to the goals.

Council discussed upgrading sewer lines in the city and asked Public Works Director James McGrath to identify lines that need work.

Council discussed library space and agreed some of this was already taken care of with the remodeling. Library Director Cassandra Cortez said maybe this could be considered in a couple of years.

Chief Priest said he will be doing a list of remodeling in the office to make it more secure and that he will be advertising for clerical help very soon. He said he will evaluate things in March or April to see if another officer is needed.
Fire Chief Matt Dear told Council that the department is building another brush truck and overall doing it this way has saved $143,000.00.

Alderman Keith told Council he feels the Council needs to focus on the goals set and not add anymore at this time.

Mayor Bowen told Council that the added motel tax from Best Western should enable the city to do some of the plans and goals.

Alderman Keith told Council they need to seriously consider looking at the ordinances concerning types of businesses that can be placed in a certain part of town.

Alderman Sanders told Council he would type up a revised list as per what Council had discussed at this workshop.

Workshop adjourned at 8:55 p.m.