

Minutes of Planning Workshop held March 23, 2015

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

Visitor: Shawn Leonard.

Mayor Bowen opened the planning workshop at 6:34 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor explained the purpose of the meeting and turned it over to Alderman Sanders.

Alderman Sanders gave handouts to everyone on the goals set and accomplished over the past five years. He talked about the accomplishments and the goals still in the works.

Alderman Sanders told everyone that he and Alderman Keith would like the public to be included during the goal setting session. Alderman Keith asked if a meeting could be held at the Community Center to get different ideas from the public.

Council agreed to hold a public meeting on Monday, April 27th at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

Chief Priest and Mayor Bowen will work on signs for this meeting. The Public Works Director said his department would set up for this event. The City Secretary will have this meeting posted on the city's marquee and website. She will also prepare flyers and give them to Chamber members and fix a suggestion box for this meeting. Council also agreed that refreshments should be served and that a sign up sheet be available for people who wish to speak at this event.

Alderman Sanders talked to Council about the structuring of these goals and suggested that Council get tablets and/or laptops for their agenda packets and list of goals. He said this could then be presented to the public on the screen at the meeting. Mr. Sanders said this would mean some of the employees presenting their report to Council would have to restructure their reports.

Council took a short break at 7:29 p.m. and reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

Alderman Sanders told Council that strategy and timelines need to be considered for the goals that are set. Also, a spread sheet will need to be drawn up for these goals once they have been agreed on.

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Alderman Sanders then presented his goals to Council, which were:

- 1 - Public Works' facility;
- 2 - City Hall lobby and outside of City Hall need facelifts;
- 3 - facebook page for city; and
- 4 - landscaping at City Hall is needed.

Alderman Sanders asked Council members to give their list(s) of goals.

Alderman Cortez told Council that beautification of Main Street is something he feels needs to get done.

Alderman Stone told Council the Public Works shop is his priority.

Mayor Bowen said he feels that getting Well #3 on line is a priority and the Public Works shop should also be considered.

Alderman Keith told Council his goal of a Public meeting has been taken care of and his other goal is to get department heads to look at goals to improve effectiveness.

Alderman Farmer told Council that everything he had thought of had already been covered by other Council members.

Before department heads presented their lists of goals to Council, Betty Kroeger asked about the possibility of getting an electronic marquee. Council discussed what the cost for this project might be. Alderman Keith said that the Methodist Church had looked at purchasing one, and it was about \$25,000.00.

City Secretary presented and reviewed her written list of goals for the city, city hall, park, community center and the downtown areas.

Animal Control Betty Kroeger presented her written list of goals for Animal Control and discussed them with Council.

Director of Public Works Director James McGrath told Council of his goals. They were as follows:

- 1 - water pumping capacity doesn't meet TCEQ requirements;
- 2 - replacing water lines under railroad;
- 3 - Public Works' shop needs to be improved;
- 4 - replace older water lines;
- 5 - add another Public Works employee;
- 6 - get a new vehicle for the department;

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7 - PVC water lines that are thirty (30) years old need to be replaced; and
8 - 6 inch water line on FM 2790 needs to be replaced.

City Secretary Josie Campa suggested getting water valves fixed and located should also be considered and Council agreed.

Library Director Cassandra Cortez reviewed her written list of goals with Council.

Police Chief Richard Priest presented his list of goals to Council and reviewed the written list with them.

Fire Chief Matt Dear told Council that the Fire Department is still trying to get station remodeled and also the need for recruiting of more members since it is still a volunteer department. In order to do the above, the department is in need of more funding.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.