

Minutes of Workshop held June 30, 2014

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

Visitors: Barrett House, Bryan Mask, Ernest Kroeger, Jim Carrillo, Luz Moreno-Lozano.

Mayor Bowen opened the workshop at 6:39 p.m., and asked Bryan Mask to explain his plans.

Bryan Mask explained his plans for renovating John Lott Park and said there are concerns about the price for these renovations.

After Mr. Mask showed Council the walking/jogging trail, there were questions on concrete being used for this trail especially for joggers.

Council told Mr. Mask the walking/jogging trail is the number one (1) priority and they expressed interest in a dedicated trail.

Mr. Mask went through his plan that the present budget would cover and then gave alternatives and future phases.

Council discussed the need for lighting at the walking/jogging trail.

Mr. Mask told Council that the lighting was listed as a future item.

Alderman Keith told Council about another \$100,000.00 is needed for these additional alternatives.

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that there will be some money left from the City Hall project (approximately \$20,000.00) and that the city will be in a new budget year, so maybe some of this money can be put in next year's budget. Ms. Campa also said the city still has the \$25,000.00 HEB gave the city for the sports complex that could be used for the trail since HEB employees have asked about a walking track for their wellness program.

Mayor Bowen told Council he would talk to HEB about this money. The Mayor told Council he would discuss this plan with the City Secretary and try to find the monies before the next regular meeting on July 14th.

Council took a short break at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

Jim Carrillo from Halff and Associates reviewed the draft copy of the proposed comprehensive plan for the city. Mr. Carrillo told Council if they have any changes they feel need to be made to let him know.

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Mr. Carrillo addressed some of the highlights of the report and told Council this plan is just a starting tool, and can be altered depending on what happens in the future.

Mr. Carrillo called attention to getting infrastructure ready for future growth.

City Secretary Josie Campa asked Mr. Carrillo if he could provide sample ordinances to the city for things such as landscaping and buildings in certain areas of the city being regulated somewhat as to appearance. Mr. Carrillo said he would get the city those samples.

Mayor Bowen asked Mr. Carrillo to check on whether a correctional facility or detention center could be placed in the city without Council's approval and Mr. Carrillo said he would check on this.

Mr. Carrillo told Council he would send an electronic copy of this draft to the city for putting on the city's website and getting public comments.

Barrett House told Mr. Carrillo he had reviewed the draft and there is a grammar formatting issue. Mr. Carrillo agreed to take a look at Mr. House's marked copy of the draft and then make the necessary corrections. He said once the corrections are made, he will send the electronic copy for placing on the city's website. Mr. Carrillo said once the city allows some time for public comments, then the draft will be finalized and then the Council can adopt it.

The workshop was closed at 8:34 p.m.