

CITY OF ENNIS COMMISSION SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE PLANNING AND
ZONING COMMISSION
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014
5:30 P.M.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. on November 13, 2014, at the Ennis Events Center, 116 West Ennis Avenue, Ennis, Texas 75119.

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas, Commissioners Frazier, Walker, Searcy, and Holley, City Manager Ewings, City Attorney Wilson, City Secretary Batchler, Director of Finance Welch, Planning and Zoning Board Members Kevin Culpepper, Jake Holland, Jeff Low, Jerold Nichols, and William Davis, Consultants Francois de Kock , Kate Lattimore, Linda Pavlik, and Jay Narayana.

Commissioner Salik was not present. Mayor Thomas departed at 5:45 p.m., Commissioner Hackney entered the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Commissioner Frazier departed at 8:00 p.m.

ELECTION ITEMS

CANVASS THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014, SPECIAL ELECTION PROPOSITION 1. ADOPTION OF LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL STREETS.

Proposition 1. The adoption of Local Sales and Use Tax in Ennis, Texas, at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Vote		%	Mail	Early Votes	Election Day	Provisional
For	1,577	68.27	103	676	795	3
Against	733	31.73	37	340	356	0
Total	2,310		140	1,016	1,151	3
Over Votes	3		0	2	1	0
Under Votes	319		28	116	175	0

For	1,577	Over Votes	3
Against	733	Under Votes	319

Precinct #	For	Against	Over	Under
120	10	3	0	1
121	494	223	0	69
122	296	130	1	33
123	104	49	0	57
124	175	81	0	54

125	241	109	2	50
126	158	82	0	32
127	60	42	0	13
128	28	11	0	10
129	2	0	0	0
136	8	3	0	0
138	1	0	0	0

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ENNIS, TEXAS, CANVASSING AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD IN SAID CITY ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN ENNIS, TEXAS, AT THE RATE OF ONE-FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL STREETS.

Commissioner Holley moved to Pass, Approve and Adopt the resolution declaring the results of the Special Election held November 4, 2014 adopting a local sales and use tax in Ennis, Texas, at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. Commissioner Searcy seconded and Mayor Thomas, Commissioners Frazier, Walker, Searcy and Holley voted AYE. 5-AYES, 0-NOES MEASURE CARRIED.

At 5:45 p.m. Mayor Thomas turned the meeting over to Mayor Pro-tem Walker.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Half and Associates were in attendance to present the results of the Community Survey. The panel consisting of City Commission members and Planning and Zoning Commission members were asked to describe Ennis in one word or phrases. The words historical, charming, growing, exciting, home, and family were shared. The survey was completed by City of Ennis Water Utilities Customers. 5564 surveys were submitted to the customers and 1207 surveys were completed and returned. 1126 surveys were returned by mail and 81 were completed on line. 32 were completed in Spanish. The survey was comprised of 47 questions regarding age group, ethnicity, gender, number in households, annual income, rating of city services, reason for living in Ennis, what was liked least about Ennis, rating of city initiatives, use of bikeways, information received from what format, if a business owner – how long in business, type of business, number of employees, and gross revenues.

Francois de Kock with Half and Associates explained that a Comprehensive Plan is a comprehensive vision for the community. It is a long range policy to make your vision a reality. The Plan evaluates where are we now, where do we want to be, and how do we get there. Comprehensive planning is not zoning. The importance of the Plan is that it considers how your community wants to grow and change over time, it is predictable and fair, it contains clear recommendations for the desired type, location, and scale of new development and redevelopment and infrastructure investment coordinated to accommodate the type of growth you want for your city. The Plan guides the City's Capital Improvement Programs with respect to spending on public infrastructure. The Plan guides development regulations such as

zoning and subdivision ordinances. The Plan identifies need and focus for future special studies. The Plan guides other city policies such as economic development, public works and city facilities.

Urban sprawl was examined. Sprawl segregates land use types and income. Sprawl is auto dependent. Sprawl has no center, it is generic and has confusing street patterns. In sprawl there is traffic congestion, lack of access, no identity, a weakened community, and is unsustainable. Sprawl is caused by regulatory issues, developer/financing practices and societal issues. The alternative is to focus on growth, protect key areas, mix uses plan for people and place - not cars, plan with a vision - not a calculator, consider the pedestrian, and create community.

Ennis has had very little growth in residential areas in the last ten years. Commissioner Holley inquired as to how do you take an established community with sprawl and improve on it? P& Z Commissioner Davis asked how do you prevent it from losing its' charm? Mr. de Kock stated that by controlling future growth and don't let TxDOT have a speed limit through the downtown of 35-40 mph. Have the speed limit dropped to 20 mph. Promote living downtown. Build good trails for hiking and biking. P & Z Commissioner Nichols asked Which comes first growth or retail. How do you attract retail and restaurant businesses? Mr. de Koch responded that the Comprehensive Plan is the platform for growth. There must be public and private partnership to accomplish the goals of the Plan.

The members were asked what outcome do you wish for the Comprehensive Plan effort? Responses included the following: Residential growth, increased quality of life, true plan with coordination, focus for younger generation incentive to stay here or move here, more economic possibilities for people of color, wage increases for employees – businesses with higher paying salaries, common green spaces, energize citizens to get more engaged and give hope, long range vision of what Ennis will look like in the next 15-20 years, people and dollars to stay here, concise information to aid in determining the needs of the city, housing and retail on the north end of town, more parking downtown, everyone can enjoy and be a part of the diversity of the entire city, should have a mission to spread the good, and a plan to market and sale the city in the future.

The need for Focus Groups was explained by Linda Pavlik. They will be used to maximize public input, assist in defining the vision of future, provide a roadmap in creating a decision making tool.

The members were asked imagine Ennis 10 to 20 years in the future, what would you want to be the same? The charm of the city would remain with expanded retail, sense of community, hopefully the historic downtown buildings and homes will be maintained, continuation of festivals, good city services, small town feel yet see growth, retail and population growth, right industrial growth with good paying jobs.

The members were asked to imagine Ennis 10 to 20 years in the future, how would you want it to look different from today? Downtown revitalized, vibrant downtown, more, incentive to make people come, exclusivity, put in place and carry on infrastructures to keep up with change, infrastructures competitive with other cities, other educational opportunities, and museums.

The next step in the process resuming after the holidays in January 2015 is 4 Stakeholder interviews, 2 Focus Group meetings, 2 Public Meetings, and 3 hour Visioning Sessions.

With no further business, Mayor Pro-tem Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Mathew Walker, Mayor Pro-tem

ATTEST:

Donna Batchler, City Secretary

