

CITY OF ENNIS COMMISSION WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. on November 17, 2014, in the City Commission Chambers of the City of Ennis Municipal Building, 115 W. Brown Street, Ennis, Texas 75119.

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas, Commissioners Frazier, Hackney, Walker, Searcy and Holley, City Manager Ewings, City Attorney Wilson, Chief Erisman, City Secretary Batchler, ED Coordinator Nelson, Director of Finance Welch, Director of Utilities Bolen and Attorney Robert Hager. Commissioner Salik was not in attendance.

DOWNTOWN INCENTIVES

ED Coordinator Nelson presented requested revisions to the proposed ordinance replacing Ordinance 13-02-02 governing Historic Preservation Grants. The ordinance will not be merged into one with the ordinances governing tax abatements and 380 Retail Commercial Incentives. When completed there shall be three separate ordinances: Ordinance governing Economic Development Incentives Policy for Tax Abatements, Ordinance governing Historic Preservation Grants, and Ordinance governing 380 Retail Commercial Incentives. The revisions to the Historic Preservation Grants Ordinance shall include a change in the percentage of grant contribution per project to 22%, minimum level shall remain at \$15,000, the ordinance will have State and Federal compatibility, the expiration date for the ordinance is set at 12-31-15, the capability of bundling applications has been removed and the language about "increased" value has been removed. The subject of overruns and how to handle it in a project was discussed. The projects with overruns under the current ordinance will be administered under the now existing ordinance. It is anticipated that future applicants governed under the new proposed ordinance will submit estimated cost much closer to the actual cost of the construction so that overruns may be avoided.

RETAIL COMMERCIAL INCENTIVES (CHAPTER 380)

ED Coordinator Nelson presented Retail Commercial Incentives governed by Chapter 380 Texas Local Government Code authorizing municipalities to provide assistance for economic development by providing monies, loans, city personnel, and city services for economic development. Nelson to present an ordinance governing the Chapter 380 Retail Commercial Incentives at a future meeting.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

City Manager Ewings presented the total estimated cost to replace 5,900 water meters as outlined in a report submitted by Director of Utilities Bolen. Meter and installation totals - \$2,045,250.00, software, hardware and contingencies - \$50,000.00 for a total estimated replacement cost of \$2,095,250.00. The Utility Fund does not have adequate fund balances to pay for a meter replacement program. Due to other projects such as debt for proposed street improvements by the Commission and relocation of utilities due to the expansion of Highway 287, if the meter replacement program were financed through traditional means, it is recommended that the program be delayed until 2016.

Mayor Thomas adjourned the workshop at 7:15 p.m.

Donna Batchler, City Secretary

