

## CITY OF ENNIS COMMISSION WORKSHOP

MARCH 16, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. on March 16, 2015, in the City Commission Chambers of the City of Ennis Municipal Building, 115 W. Brown Street, Ennis, Texas 75119.

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

### TxDOT SIDEWALK/TRAIL GRANT

TxDOT Sidewalk/Trail Grant is a federally funded program administered through TxDOT to fund local pedestrian/bicycle trail projects. A 52 million dollar project is available to cities with a population under 200,000. It is a four (4) year project with 13 million available per year. Applications are due May 4, 2015, with TxDOT providing a limited window of opportunity. Funding may not be available again for several years. Selected projects will be announced September 2015. Staff proposes two routes that extend along MLK Street beginning at Jones Street and then South on NE Main Street and Belknap. Estimated cost for this route is \$440,420, construction cost of \$328,420 and local match of \$ 111,999. Then South from MLK Street along Daffan to the retail area near Ennis Ave is the second project with an estimated cost of \$189,814, a construction cost of \$135,814 and a local match of \$54,000. The total project estimate is \$630,234, of that the city would be responsible for approximately \$165,000, as a local match. The engineering could be funded with match.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

**Downtown Master Plan:** The Downtown Master Plan is a Main Street Project required to support Downtown Revitalization featuring streetscape, signage, zoning and infrastructure. Eleven proposals have been received from Asakuar Robinson Company, Freese & Nichols, GFF Planning, Half & Associates, Kimley Horn, Land Design, Mesa Planning, OSDA Studios, Page Southerland Page, Inc., Tharp Planning Group, and Winter & Company. The Main Street Selection Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, to make a selection from the eleven proposals submitted. The Main Street Board will meet to review the selection for their approval, the EEDC will meet to review the proposed selection for their approval and the City Commission will meet to review and approve the selection.

Façade Improvement Grant Program: This is a Main Street Project required by the Texas Main Street Program. It is a high impact low cost program administered by the Main Street Board and funded by the Economic Development Corporation. \$35,000 is budgeted for this fiscal year. The project is a match ratio of one to one, with a maximum project of \$15,000 requiring \$7,500 of private funds and an EDC match of \$7,500. A Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Landmark Commission is required.

North Kaufman Revitalization District: Is a citizen led effort to clean-up and revitalize North Kaufman designating North Kaufman Street as an Economic Revitalization District. This will be a high impact, low cost initiative. This area is the second highest traffic count entryway into the city. The development of a revitalization district in this area would support the City of Ennis Comprehensive Plan and the EDC's Mission of Economic Revitalization. The area has the lowest median net worth and the lowest median household income in the city. Cleanup and beautification is needed. A proposed citizens committee to oversee the district has been formed to include Anjeanette Mays, Charlotte Watson, Pastor Jasper Hughes, Joe Brown, Kendra Jones, Leonard Davis, Lois Johnson, Pastor Mona Loera, Nicholas McGraw and William Hughes. A volunteer clean-up will be initiated, façade improvement grants and revitalization projects have been proposed.

Mayor Thomas adjourned the workshop at 6:36 p.m.

---

Donna Batchler, City Secretary

