

CITY OF ENNIS COMMISSION WORKSHOP

APRIL 6, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 6, 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, Frazier, Hackney, Walker and Holley, City Manager Ewings, City Attorney Wilson, Chief Erisman, City Secretary Batchler, ED Coordinator Nelson, and Director of Finance Welch. Commissioner Searcy joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There are several boards and commissions that have not been active for several years. City Manager Ewings asked for discussion and direction on code amendments that might redirect the boards or discontinue them.

City Manager Ewings listed the more active boards and commissions as follows: Library Board, Parks Board, Historic Landmark Commission, Museum Board, and Main Street Board. Statutory boards and commissions are: Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustments, and Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. Less active boards are: Airport Board, Building Standards, Economic Development Commission, Tourism Commission, Ennis Arts Commission, Industrial Development Corporation. The city manager suggested that the Ennis Arts Commission and the Tourism Commission merged to form one commission. During discussion it was determined that the Economic Development Commission was formed prior to the creation of the Ennis Economic Development Corporation and has been dormant for years. The Ennis Economic Development Commission will be discontinued. The Ennis Human Relations Committee, Building Standards, Industrial Development Corporation, Airport Board and Housing Authority will continue to meet as needed.

AGENDA ITEMS, PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

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 Avenue 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. There will be future year funding by TxDOT giving the city time to budget for the project. Voluntary transfer of Right of Way will be requested. No property condemnation will take place. The proposed sidewalk/pathways will be five (5) feet wide.

CONSENT AGENDA

The future use of consent agendas was discussed.

AMBULANCE RFP

The City of Ennis is currently a partner with Ellis County and the Cities of Red Oak and Waxahachie for ambulance service. The staffs from the entities have been meeting to discuss a cooperative request for proposals and are seeking from the governing bodies to do so. The proposed Ambulance RFP was briefly discussed. If one or more of the entities proposing the cooperative purchasing pulls out the cost to the remaining entities will increase. The City of Midlothian utilizes Fire Based EMS.

HEALTHCARE

FY 2015-2016 Employee Healthcare was briefly discussed. Commissioner Hackney inquired if the surrounding cities could pool coverage. The response was that if the one or more of the partnering cities had a high claim experience the remaining partnering cities would face an increase of premium cost.

Mayor Thomas adjourned the workshop at 6:58 p.m.

Donna Batchler, City Secretary

