

CITY OF ENNIS COMMISSION WORKSHOP

APRIL 20, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. on April 20, 2015, 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, and Director of Finance Welch. Commissioner Salik was not in attendance.

OVERVIEW ENNIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Erisman gave an overview of the daily operations of the Ennis Police Department. The Ennis Police Department is made up of 34 sworn peace officers, 6 licensed tele-communicators, 1 records clerk, 1 CID secretary, 1 court clerk, 1 part-time court clerk, 3 reserve peace officers and 9 crossing guards. The Ennis Police Department is made up of 4 patrol shifts that work 12-hour shifts. Each shift is made up of 1 Patrol Sergeant, 1 Patrol Corporal, 1 Traffic Officer and 3 Patrol Officers. Patrol is responsible for the protection of life and property and serves a population of approximately 19,000 residents within 28 square miles. Patrol utilizes the Chevy Tahoe as its marked vehicles to effectively serve and protect the community. The Criminal Investigations Division is the primary investigative arm of the Ennis Police Department and is comprised of one Lieutenant and six Detective Sergeants, all of whom maintain an investigative caseload. The Division is also assisted by the CID Secretary who assists with digital evidence collection and finalizes cases for filing with the District Attorney's Office. The Communication Program is a division supervised by the Administrative Captain. The division is made up of 6 licensed tele communicators that have the responsibility of answering all phone calls into the police department. The calls include non-emergency calls for service and emergency 911 calls for Police, Fire and EMS. SWAT Division has two 6 member SWAT Teams. All members are certified and recognized by the TCOLE. The SWAT Team is typically utilized for high risk felony arrest warrants, narcotic search warrants, barricaded suspects and downed officer rescue. The Ennis Police Department uses the Chevy Tahoe as its preferred patrol vehicle. Each patrol car is equipped with radio, radar with front and back antenna, overhead light bar and positional emergency lights, 3 tone siren and PA systems, on board computer with internet access, mobile audio and video recording systems, shotgun, and digital ticket writers and printers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Under Industrial Development, active projects are Tellus Technology, Project Dakota and land sale to Polyguard. November 2014 an ED agreement was signed with Tellus Technology. Tellus is in the process of raising the \$15 million in capital by preparing to sell the Private Activity Bonds, site planning and engineering are nearly complete and Tellus has received the TCEQ permit from the state. There are no outstanding issues. Project Dakota is a retention project, a directional drilling industry, with a capital investment of \$500,000, retained jobs of 69, with projected new jobs of 15 over three year period. EDC has signed a certificate of resolution and closed on the property. Polyguard has offered to purchase 44 acres from the EDC. Sale is pending

Downtown Development: Main Street Board has received 11 proposals for the Downtown Master Plan. The committee reviewed and narrowed the selection down to 4, Freese & Nichols, Halff & Associates, Mesa Planning and Page Southerland with a final determination for selection of Mesa Planning. Proposed Downtown Activities: Farmers Market Apr-Oct, Spring into Art Apr-Oct, Make-it-at-the-Market Apr-Oct, Sunset Market Apr-Oct, Second Saturday Events Jan-Dec, Bluebonnet Festival Apr-May, Bluebonnet Trails Apr-May, Polka Festival May 23-24, Summer Music Festival June, Independence Day July 4th, Fall Festival Oct, and Lights of Ennis Nov-Dec.

Historic Preservation Grants: 9 application received, three grants completed (101 S. Dallas, 213 N. Dallas and 108 W. Ennis Ave.), the six remaining applications are 207 W. Ennis Ave, 107 S. Dallas, 213 W. Ennis Ave (Livery project-\$375,056/22% grant of \$82,512), 218 W. Ennis Ave. 208 W. Knox (Culpepper project-\$59,298/22% grant of \$13,045), and 117 N. Dallas (Medina project-\$69,500/22% grant of \$15,290).

Electrical System Upgrade: McDowell Park-New 200 Amp Service, Sports Connection-New 200 Amp Service, Event Center-New 200 Amp Service and Pierce Park (North) installation of 600 Amp Service all completed.

Retail Development: Retail Coach activities - data based analysis, 2 public education seminars, retail match list, leakage analysis, and actively recruiting an eighty acre development and Westgate Center. A new 12 month contract with Retail Coach and EDC has been approved.

Economic Development Coordinator Nelson gave a brief overview and demonstration of the new EDC website. It can be accessed at www.ennistx.com or www.ennistx.net.

Mayor Thomas adjourned the workshop at 7:20 p.m.

Donna Batchler, City Secretary

