

CITY OF ENNIS COMMISSION WORKSHOP

MAY 18, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on May 18, 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, Searcy and Holley, City Manager Ewing, Chief Erisman, City Attorney Wilson, City Secretary Batchler, Economic Development Coordinator Nelson, and Director of Finance Welch.

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ED Coordinator Nelson presented the Downtown Master Plan proposal within the Economic Development update. The Downtown Master Plan consists of three part plan components to be accomplished in a 6 month timeline. Assessments: Sales Activity/Tenant Space Inventory, City and Market Growth Characteristics, Parking Inventory and Analysis, Assessment presentation. The Downtown Design Plan Frame Work: Citizens and Business Goals and Priorities, Venue Clusters, Framework Plan, Framework MS Board, Framework Presentation. Catalyst Projects: Project allocation Map and Prioritization, Project Descriptions and Visualizations. Proposed cost: \$130,000. The Downtown Funding Strategy was presented. More sources of investments equals long term success for the downtown from Private Investments of \$2,300,000, Historic Preservation Grants of \$650,000, Federal Tax Credits, State Tax Credits, Federal Grants, State Grants, Economic Development Corporation, City Funds, and City Bonds funding individual building renovations, catalyst projects and infrastructure such as water, sewer and streetscape projects. Downtown utilities are inadequate to support complete downtown revitalization and long term economic vitality. The rate of revitalization and anticipated uses of space will eventually exceed the capacity of existing downtown utilities. Estimated cost to upgrade Downtown Utilities are: water lines \$550,000, sewer lines \$200,000 manholes \$75,000, fire hydrants and valves \$100,000, contingency \$231,250 for a total of \$1,156,250

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone was discussed. Tax increment financing is a tool local governments use to finance infrastructure improvements in a defined area. Improvements are undertaken to promote the viability of existing businesses and attract new enterprises to the area.

Alcohol distance requirement regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages near churches, schools and hospitals was discussed.

RECYCLING

PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR FUTURE RECYCLING PROGRAM: 1) Expand drop off location – Manned facility with increased types of materials accepted. 2) Provide small recycling bins for curbside collection, requiring more frequent collection. A small monthly fee is recommended. 3) Provide large recycling bins for curbside collection, requiring more frequent collection. High initial cost for the purchase of the 96 gallon large recycling bins. A recommended fee for participants or a purchase of the larger recycling bins by the customer from the city. A mandatory city-wide recycling program was brought up.

Mayor Thomas adjourned the workshop at 7:00 p.m.

Donna Batchler, City Secretary

