

CITY OF ENNIS COMMISSION WORKSHOP

JUNE 15, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 15, 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, and Holley, City Manager Ewing, City Attorney Wilson, City Secretary Batchler, Chief Erisman, Chief Aycock, Economic Development Coordinator Nelson, and Director of Finance Welch. Commissioners Salik and Searcy were not in attendance.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Chief Aycock presented an overview of the past, current, and proposed Emergency Medical Service. March 1, 2015 ETMC-EMS transferred the contract to Careflite. The Cities of Red Oak, Waxahacie, and Ennis along with Ellis County have developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Emergency Medical Services. It is designed very similar to what we would do if we had fire-based EMS. Proposals were turned in on May 15, 2015. Highlights of the RFP: 3 year initial contract with 2, 2 year renewal options, separation of emergency and non-emergency ambulances, 9:00 response time to 96% of all 911 EMS calls with fines of \$1,000/call for 91-95.99 % compliance and \$2,000/call for lower compliance plus probation, limited response time compliancy negotiation (severe weather, mutual agreement on a per call basis, first 12 hours of a large-scale incident), ambulance & equipment maintenance requirements, subsidy of 1 entity not affected by other entities continued participation, and inability to assign contract without advanced notice and our approval. Responses to the RFP with 96% compliance are Acadian, AMR and Careflite. An overview of the RFP was presented. Concerns with private EMS and how the entities will bridge the gap with private EMS were brought up. Points were introduced as to why Fire-Based EMS should be considered within the next few years.

DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALCOHOL SALES IN DOWNTOWN AREA

Economic Development Coordinator Nelson presented an overview of the current ordinance governing alcohol sales and the proposed amendments to the ordinance. The State Alcohol Beverage Code Title 4, Chapter 104 mandates no distance restriction. The State Code allows the governing body to establish a distance restriction. In 1965 the Ennis City Commission adopted an ordinance establishing a 300 foot restriction from door to door regarding the serve/sale businesses verses distance to schools, churches and hospitals. As currently written, variances cannot be considered. The State Alcohol Beverage Code allows the governing body to consider

variances. The criteria used in considering a variance or exception is specified in the state code. Alcoholic Beverage Code; Section 109.33 “Sales near School, Church or Hospital”: The governing body may allow variances to the regulation if the governing body determines that enforcement of the regulation in a particular instance is not in the best interest of the public, constitutes waste or inefficient use of land or other resources, creates an undue hardship on an applicant for a license or permit, does not serve its intended purpose, is not effective or necessary, or for any other reason the governing body, after consideration of health, safety, and welfare of the public and the equities of the situation, determines is in the best interest of the community. The options are: 1) Do nothing, 2) Grant a blanket variance for downtown, 3) Allow variance requests on a case-by-case basis (Version 1-Bars and Restaurants must seek variance for downtown only. Version 2-Bars must seek variance for downtown only.). Restaurants that make less than 50% revenue from the sale of alcohol would secure a “Food and Beverage Permit” from the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission. No effect on Zoning and does not change permitting or licensing with the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission. Staff proposes an Ordinance providing for permitting variances to the distance requirements for those establishments that receive primary revenue on the sale of alcohol with less than 50% of revenue from food served. The distance requirements imposed by the proposed ordinance do not apply to holders of a license or permit issued by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission as a food and beverage certificate. If approved the change would be limited to the area within the National Register Historic Downtown District.

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

The Main Street Board has reviewed the proposals submitted by eleven planning firms and recommends MESA Planning to be awarded an agreement for the planning services in the amount of \$130,000. The proposed plan would provide specific projects and cost estimates of redevelopment of the downtown Ennis Area. \$60,000 has been budgeted for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and the remainder will be budgeted for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Mayor Thomas adjourned the workshop at 6:54 p.m.

Donna Batchler, City Secretary

