

**MINUTES
CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
200 South Rusk
Gainesville, Texas 76240
February 6, 2007
6:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Gainesville, Texas met in regular session on February 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. with the following persons in attendance:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Glenn Loch
Council Members Charles Draper, Jim Goldsworthy, Carolyn Hendricks, Vince Rippey, Beverly Snuggs, Woodrow Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Land, City Manager; Bill Harris, City Attorney; Cathy Kinsella, Executive Secretary

VISITORS PRESENT: Kathy Floyd, Andy Hogue, Jody Henry, Diane Landin, Tamara Sieger, Jeremy Sieger, Chad Sieger, Roy Lewis, Leda Furrh, Mary Crisp

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Loch called the meeting to order. A quorum of members was present.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Draper gave the invocation and led in the pledge to the flag.

RECOGNITIONS

Dan Parker, Finance Director, received on behalf of the City Finance Department, an award for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is issued by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to governmental entities that achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

REPORTS

Kent Sharp, Executive Director of the Gainesville Economic Development Corporation, presented the annual report for the corporation. The report details funding and incentives offered for businesses, a history of sales taxes received, and status of projects. Sharp reported that the corporation contributed to the addition of 762 new jobs for Gainesville.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council reviewed the Minutes of the January 16, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting and approved them as written.

Councilmember Draper **moved for approval of the Consent Agenda**, and was seconded by Councilmember Snuggs. The motion carried unanimously:

Ayes: Draper, Goldsworthy, Hendricks, Loch, Rippey, Snuggs, Williams

Nays: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not convene into executive session.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mike Land reported on his and Mayor Loch's trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with congressional officials regarding the Pecan Creek channelization project, which City of Gainesville voters approved in 2002, and which has since been stalled in funding at the federal level. In a series of meetings with U. S. Representative Michael Burgess, the Senate Majority Clerk for Energy and Water, and the appropriations and legislative aides for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Land and Loch lobbied support and received advice on accessing available federal funds and moving the project forward. Meeting with Representative Kay Granger's legislative director regarding programmatic issues, they emphasized that the City of Gainesville has the local funds for the project, but needs the legislative language in place at the federal level that will allow this project to move forward. Land expressed his appreciation for Congressman Burgess who has spent a lot of time, effort, and strategy working on behalf of Gainesville and stated that this project is the Congressman's top legislative priority for our community. Both Senator Hutchinson and Representative Burgess fully support Gainesville to receive the funding for the project. Land said he hopes within the next year the City will receive approval and be able to proceed with engineering and design of the creek and bridges, and purchase of properties required for the project.

Mayor Loch expressed complimentary remarks for Land's outstanding presentation in Washington, and appreciation for Congressman Burgess and Senator Hutchinson.

In a powerpoint presentation, Land reviewed an analysis of single-family residence dwellings within the area bounded by O'Neal, Moss, Taylor and Morris Streets, illustrating the trend toward a larger percentage of rental properties versus owner occupied, high crime rates and decreasing property values. Land said this section of the city is illustrated only because of the large amount of city resources currently being dedicated to the area, adding that there are arrests and code violations reported all over the city. Several options were suggested that would foster redevelopment of neighborhoods in the city. Land said there are policy issues that the City will need to address over the next several months.

A slide show of photos taken of houses and properties suspected to be in violation of City Code was reviewed by Council. Land reported that a new code enforcement team has been formed and will be more aggressive in City Code enforcement activities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Glenn Loch, Mayor

Attest:

Kay Lunnon, City Secretary
As recorded by Cathy Kinsella