SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
5:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Jim Falkner presiding.

Present:

MAYOR JIM FALKNER
COMMISSIONER DON EDWARDS
COMMISSIONER MARCUS KASTLER ARRIVED AT 5:30 P.M.
COMMISSIONER JUSTIN MARTIN
COMMISSIONER CHRIS WILLIAMS

City Staff in attendance were:

INTERIM CITY MANAGER JAMES GRIMMETT
CITY CLERK CINDY PRICE
CITY ATTORNEY PAUL KRITZ
FINANCE DIRECTOR STEPHANIE RICHARDSON
IT DIRECTOR CHRIS FELIX
POLICE CHIEF TONY CELESTE
ELECTRIC UTILITY DIRECTOR GENE RATZLAFF
ELECTRIC UTILITY DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIKE SHOOK
GENERATION SUPERINTENDENT TONY LAWSON
ARCHITECT/PLANNER DENNIS JACOBS
ASSISTANT TO CITY MANAGER TRISHA PURDON

A. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jim Falkner

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. New Generation Project
   - Electric Utility Director Gene Ratzlaff and Finance Director Stephanie Richardson Provided an update on the new Generation project including an impact on the existing assets, estimated project and financing costs and options for the Commission to consider. The GRDA contract will be presented to the Commission during the February 10 meeting. Action taken on the contract will determine if the New Generation project proceeds.

2. Municipal Facilities Project
   - Mike Mongan, representing the Municipal Facilities Renovation Advisory Panel, provided information on the square foot costs to build a new police and fire station and renovate City Hall.

   - James C. Taylor, Jr., stated he recommends the City Hall first floor be gutted, new windows installed, look at what the third floor costs will be but mainly to slow the project down and do a financial review before determining what can be done.

   - Steve Cornell presented the Commission with over 200 signatures on letters of support for building a new combined police and fire facility stating they have not collected all the signature pages yet.

   - Rick Thompson stated the support letters primarily came from the business community as

they are supportive of a new combined police and fire. The business community wants to see something new; the combined facility would be a need, not a want.

- Commissioner Martin wants to get real numbers on what it would cost to renovate the Police Department.

- Commissioner Kastler believes a new combined facility will help with recruiting police and fire personnel.

- Mayor Falkner wants additional numbers and requested the chiefs sit down with Dennis Jacobs to come up with drawings which can be taken to a design build firm.

- Commissioner Williams is concerned about the sales tax question asking voters to approve a remodel and Commissioners changing it to building new. He suggested the first floor be gutted and renovated into a large community room; the second floor being remodeled behind the marble; building a new police and fire facility; providing third floor egress and installing a fire escape on the north side of the building.

- Tom Tipton suggested the Commission go look at other combination police and fire facilities.

- Commissioners Edwards stated we owe it to the police and fire employees to provide them a facility they are proud of and suggested a new building be built, but the existing fire building should not be used as a second station. He further suggested the panel be kept together; ballots be mailed to all registered voters with the options of renovating or building new; commissioners and police and fire employees, including union representatives should visit other buildings; administrative offices should move out of the trailers and back to City Hall soon; and the county is responsible for any remodel of the third floor.

- The Commission agreed to keep the Municipal Facilities Advisory Panel active, to bid out replacing the windows in the City Hall building, to request bids to demolish the first floor, to have Attorney Paul Kritz prepare a question to mail to registered voters; to have the police and fire chiefs and key members of their staff meet with Dennis Jacobs to determine their needs and to identify potential locations for a new police and fire facility.

C. ADJOURN

MOTION: Move to adjourn.

ACTION: MOTION: FALKNER SECOND: WILLIAMS
ALL AYE

Time the meeting was adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Date the minutes were approved: _____

_____
Cindy Price, City Clerk