

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL
AND CALDWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

DECEMBER 12, 2017

6:30 P.M.

**CLARK LIBRARY ANNEX-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 217 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 3rd FLOOR,
LOCKHART, TEXAS**

Council present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez
Councilmember Juan Mendoza
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson

Mayor Lew White
Councilmember John Castillo
Councilmember Kara McGregor
Councilmember Brad Westmoreland

Commissioners Court and Caldwell County staff present:

Judge Ken Schawe
Commissioner Eddie Moses
Commissioner Joe Roland
Molly Cole, Judicial & Administrative Assistant

Commissioner Terry Wright
Commissioner Edward Theriot
Angela Jenkins, Deputy County Clerk

Staff present:

Vance Rodgers, City Manager
Dan Gibson, City Planner

Connie Constancio, City Secretary
Rob Tobias, Economic Development Director

Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council: None.

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Lew White called the special meeting of the Lockhart City Council to order on this date at 6:33 p.m.

Judge Ken Schawe called the special meeting of the Caldwell County Commissioners Court to order on this date at 6:33 p.m.

ITEM 2. INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor White gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

ITEM 3-A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING POSSIBLE SUSTAINABLE PLACES PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA AROUND THE COURTHOUSE WHICH COULD INVOLVE CALDWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROPERTY.

Mayor White stated that in 2012, the City of Lockhart received a grant for planning projects. The initial request was for the downtown area to be widened in the northern and southern sections at the Highway 183 areas. This special joint meeting is to allow discussion amongst the City of Lockhart and Caldwell County regarding proposed revitalization improvements in the downtown square, to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues downtown, and to improve pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The City recently obtained certificates of obligation funds that would be used to improve citywide road and drainage improvements, which includes the downtown square. A Downtown Revitalization Committee has been meeting for the past few years to make recommendations about revitalizing the downtown square to improve drainage and parking, ADA improvements, and to attract visitors to Lockhart. Mayor and staff recently met with the Texas Department of Transportation Division (TxDOT). During that meeting,

TxDOT gave the city authorization to use the State right-of-way for the northern sidewalk plaza idea. Additional plans involve the Courthouse County property.

Mr. Gibson stated that TxDOT also agreed to assist with the grant application process. Several public input efforts have been conducted that include citywide surveys and the appointment of steering committee members. According to results of the public surveys, it appears that the public's most favored plan involved the downtown improvements that widens the northern side of the square and improves the flow of pedestrian traffic. In 2012, the Council approved the Sustainable Places Project - Courthouse Square Scenario B. He provided explanation about the proposed Courthouse Square project.

Mr. Rodgers provided information about the proposed downtown revitalization improvements that would involve the northern side of the Courthouse property. Issues to consider would be to install inlets in the downtown square to improve storm water drainage.

There was discussion regarding the drainage improvements, electrical adjustments, parking adjustments, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, and possibly building public restrooms downtown.

Commissioner Moses suggested that the business owners in the downtown area affected by the changes be consulted for their input about the proposed plan. Mr. Rodgers replied that each business owner would be notified by mail and hand-delivery about all meetings involving the project.

Councilmember Westmoreland spoke, as a business owner in the downtown square, in favor of improvements in the downtown area. He stated that pedestrian traffic downtown has significantly decreased since the Judicial Center which houses many County departments has opened.

There was discussion regarding the current parking issues in the downtown square and the proposed drainage improvements.

Mayor White stated that TxDOT informed the city that the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) has grant funds available for this type of project and that TxDOT agreed to support the project and to waive the City's match for the improvements along the State right-of-way. Mr. Rodgers added that TxDOT agreed to assist with submission of the grant application if the city would gather an engineer's cost estimates of the project. Staff is currently working with an engineer to conduct the cost estimate.

There was discussion.

Commissioner Theriot made a motion to support the reuse of approximately 12 feet of County property that is currently being used for parking, for the realignment of streets and the creation of pedestrian areas. Motion is a condition that all efforts are made to reduce parking loss and maintain accessibility. The Court expresses the preference that the improvements be conducted on the south side. The Court is also open to discussions regarding public restrooms on the square. Commissioner Wright seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Councilmember Michelson suggested that the Council meet soon to discuss the downtown revitalization project that would be included in the grant application. Mr. Rodgers stated that the deadline to submit the grant application to CAMPO is January 18, 2018.

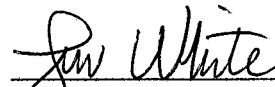
Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to approve the downtown improvement project with the preference of the south side, with the concept of building public restrooms, and to hold a special meeting on December 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the project prior to submission of the grant application. Councilmember McGregor seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 4. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.


PASSED and APPROVED this the 19th day of December 2017.

CITY OF LOCKHART



Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:



Connie Constancio, TRMC
City Secretary

