



City of Farmers Branch

Farmers Branch City Hall
13000 Wm Dodson Pkwy
Farmers Branch, Texas
75234

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

4:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Called Meeting

Special Called Meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m.

Presiding: 1 - Mayor Robert Dye

Present: 5 - Council Member Ana Reyes, Mayor Pro Tem John Norwood, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mike Bomgardner, Council Member Bronson Blackson and Council Member Terry Lynne

Staff: 7 - Charles Cox City Manager, John Land Deputy City Manager, Braden Metclaf City Attorney, Sara Egan Assistant to City Secretary, Benjamin Williamson Assistant City Manager, Sherelle Evans-Jones Finance Director and Denise Wallace Library Director

A. CALL TO ORDER (4 P.M.)

Mayor Dye called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

A.1 ORD- 3557 **Consider adopting Ordinance No. 3557 calling for a bond election for May 04, 2019, making provisions for conducting the Election and other provisions relating thereto; and take appropriate action.**

Assistant to City Manager, Benjamin Williamson provided a brief presentation of the components leading to the proposal of a bond election for a new library. This included 4 visioning meetings, 7 Library Board meetings, and 7 City Council meetings. In addition to the RFQ timeline for responses from Gensler, Hidell, LRK, and PGAL.

Council Member Reyes inquired about the Bond Committee's previous involvement.

Mr. Williamson confirmed Michelle Holmes has been currently active with the Library Board in the current discussions for bond.

Mayor Dye allowed citizens to comment. The following citizens spoke in favor or against Ordinance 3557:

For (10):

Joe Potraza

Amy Talbert

Jennifer Bauer

Sally Derrick

Rachelle Hale*

Rick Lyon

Rosa Poetschke

Emily Derrick

Jennifer Allen

Bonnie Potraza

Against (6):

Joe Reynolds

David Koch

William Glancy

Calla Davis

Harold Froehlich

Artie Palmer

*Denise Wallace read a statement on behalf of Rachelle Hale.

Mayor Pro Tem Norwood stated his position is to decide on renovating or building new, and not overlook the current conditions of the building. He is in favor of moving forward to allow this item on the ballot and let the residents decide if a new library is desired.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Bomgardner agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Norwood. He added that many of the current ongoing projects are based on available funding due to conservative financial planning.

Council Member Reyes is in favor of moving forward and addressed voter information and education. She noted that public safety or other immediate needs are not being compromised for the sake of a new library.

Council Member Lynne stated reservations on placing this item on the May ballot. He believes it is more appropriate for it to be included in the November ballot to allow residents to become informed after generating a comprehensive plan of the overall needs and wants of the City. However, he will support the decision of the Council.

Mayor Dye stated if Council decides to move forward with the bond election in May a high level of marketing and information will be pursued to educate the residents of the future tax impact. He believes an equal, if not greater, voter turn out is possible in comparison to that of the previous bond election of November 2017.

Council Member Blackson encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote. He briefly explained the rate of inflation is 12% per year and the estimated cost to the City could be \$26.88 million if this item is delayed. He also referenced a study from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission on the value of investment to a library per dollar is \$4.64. He stated with this bond, residents can experience a value return of \$111.36 million in access to resources and technology. He summarized, libraries contribute to the health of a community and equal access to resources and information.

A motion was made by Mayor Dye, seconded by Council Member Blackson, that Ordinance 3557 be adopted calling for a bond election on May 4, 2019 for the purpose of issuing a general obligation bond of the City not to exceed \$24,000,000 for a new library facility and related park facility renovations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Nay: 1 - Council Member Lynne

Aye: 4 - Council Member Reyes, Mayor Pro Tem Norwood, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Bomgardner and Council Member Blackson

B. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Dye, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Norwood, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Council Member Reyes, Mayor Pro Tem Norwood, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Bomgardner, Council Member Blackson and Council Member Lynne

Mayor

Assistant to City Secretary