

MINUTES
City Council – Special Meeting
January 11, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Wyman Williams
Mayor Pro Tem Gene Lockhart
Council Members Jean Klaus & Beckey Thompson
City Manager Darrek Ferrell, City Secretary Molly Jacobsen

ABSENT: City Attorney Patricia Adams

1. Call to order:

Mayor Wyman Williams called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Committing to Funding the North Parallel Taxiway at The Commerce Municipal Airport and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute All Necessary Documentation.

City Manager Darrek Ferrell stated that today was the deadline today to get on the February agenda for TxDOT Aviation. Mr. Ferrell discussed the difficult position the City was placed in to fund this grant and noted that he felt this was an economic development project while, streets, a library roof, and park’s projects should take priority with taxpayer dollars. The EDC had met in December and agreed to fund one-third of the project. Russell Armstrong, a member of the Airport Advisory Board, met with the University, and the University agreed to fund one-third of the project as well. Mr. Ferrell stated that the City was asked to fund the remaining one-third of the cost, and the Council had given the City Manager direction at the December council meeting to find where exactly those funds would come from.

Mr. Ferrell stated that after looking at investments, the City found a CD that doesn’t appear to have any restrictions associated with it. One CD has \$93,000 on it, and is intended for use on the utilities side, or for economic development purposes. Mr. Ferrell made a recommendation to the Council that they take the one third funding from the EDC, and the one third funding from the University and eventually refund the City’s portion of the contribution with revenue from fuel sales at the airport over a period of time. Mr. Ferrell cautioned the Council that in funding this project, it may delay future projects. Mr. Ferrell stated that by diminishing city investments, the City would be able to fund this airport project utilizing the CD.

Council Member Beckey Thompson asked “what time frame?” and “how much” in regard to the airport paying the City back over time with airport fuel revenue. Mr. Ferrell stated this would require some more extensive budgetary analysis but would be a long-term deal.

Council Member Beckey Thompson made the motion to approve funding of this airport project. Mayor Pro Tem Gene Lockhart seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

3. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Wyman Williams, Mayor

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Molly Jacobsen, City Secretary

Date

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