



CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
CITY OF ODESSA, TEXAS

AUGUST 1, 2017

On August 1, 2017, a Finance Committee meeting of the Odessa City Council was held at 5:00 p.m., in the third floor conference room, City Hall, 411 West 8th Street, Odessa, Texas.

Committee Members present: Council members Dewey Bryant and Michael Gardner.

Others present: Council members Malcolm Hamilton, Barbara Graff and Filiberto Gonzales; Richard Morton, City Manager; Larry Long, City Attorney; Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, City Secretary; Michael Marrero, Deputy City Manager; and other members of City staff.

Council member Bryant called the meeting to order and the following proceedings were held:

Consider Dobbs Law Firm infrastructure grant. Haley Howey, Interim Downtown Director, stated that the Dobbs request was for an infrastructure grant of \$80,200 for a parking lot improvement. She provided a rendering on landscaping for the parking lot. There would be planters on the fence. Council member Gonzales visited with Mr. Dobbs. Council member Graff did not like approving the infrastructure after the construction has started or completed. Ms. Howey stated that the applicants were aware that the request was at risk of Council not funding the request. Council member Graff asked about the parking lot falling under the infrastructure. At this time, the parking lot falls within the guidelines but Council could make changes. Ms. Howey stated that the Design Committee met three times on this request and the suggestions were met. Mr. Morton stated that the landscaping was not required to renovate the building. Ms. Howey stated that the process varied from two months up to seven months. Council member Gardner stated that Dobbs showed good faith in adding landscaping and the applicants know it was a risk on the funding approval. Mr. Long stated that there was no provisions for monitoring the landscaping but it can be included in the contract. He stated that the parking lot was within the rules and guidelines and it would add viability to the goals of downtown. Ms. Howey asked if the planters could be reimbursed. After discussion, Council agreed to consider the application as it stands and vote on the request at the Council meeting. Council member Bryant stated that the process must be respected and if there was additional requests it would need to go back to the Design Committee and the ODC board. Council member Gardner stated that there needed to be flexibility. Mr. Morton would forward the applications to Council once they were submitted.

Consider City Participation in Paving and Utility construction. Tom Kerr, Director of Public Works/Utilities stated that a city ordinance provides to pay for over-width and oversize of streets. Betenbough requested reimbursement for widening street expenses in a subdivision for \$484,270.05 in streets and \$274,130.27 in utilities. The subdivision started in 2013. It was common in cities to provide this reimbursement. The developer recovers some of its costs. Our standard was used in calculating the costs.

Consider proposal to establish maximum tax rate for Fiscal year 2018. Mr. Morton stated that the maximum tax rate was \$0.493248, which was under the rollback rate. Council could lower the rate but not increase it.

Consider purchase of property located at 406 N. Texas. Mr. Marrero presented a property that was for sale, the old Clover House at 406 N. Texas. The ECAD value was \$293,000 but could be negotiated to \$250,000. The building was used as counseling services and was an old hotel. The building was in bad shape. The location was ideal for entertainment purposes. The building had asbestos and had several levels of floors. The Council agreed to revisit later.

Mr. Long updated the Council on the revenue cap being discussed by the legislation. There was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Norma Aguilar-Grimaldo, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Dewey Bryant
Council member