

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOTHAN, ALABAMA
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2007**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Dothan, Alabama, met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Roy Driggers Municipal Building at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, April 10, 2007 with the following members present: Mayor Pat Thomas, Associate Commissioners Larry Matthews, Amos M. Newsome, Jr., Paul Lee, Jason Rudd, Taylor Barbaree and Phillip Tidwell. Also present were City Manager Michael West, City Clerk Pam McCoy, Secretary Tammy Danner, who recorded the Minutes of the Meeting, and the local news media representatives.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order. Chaplain Curtis Grant, Houston County Sheriff's Department, then led in prayer, afterwhich Commissioner Rudd led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Newsome welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation to everyone for coming to the 5:30 p.m. meeting.

Commissioner Tidwell moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of April 3, 2007, be approved, motion seconded by Commissioner Rudd and unanimously approved.

Dr. Steve Stokes, School Board Chairman, Dothan City Schools gave an update on what the School Board has been doing. He said for the past two years the School Board has looked at the reorganization of the school system. Dr. Stokes said the Board has hired Dr. Jesse Register, a consultant with Brown University to help with this process. Dr. Register has looked at our middle school and high school situation and has also looked at four possible options for the community to consider.

Dr. Stokes said it is very important that the Dothan City Schools have control of the school system. He said we have requested a court hearing in federal court, in June, to ask for a fairness hearing to try and obtain unitary status.

Dr. Stokes said there are four possible options that this community could look at in reorganizing our school system: build a new consolidated high school that will accommodate about 2,000 students. To do that you would need 40 to 50 acres and about \$50 to \$60 million dollars; to consolidate Dothan High and Northview, put grades 10, 11 and 12 at Northview and the 9th graders at Dothan High. To do this it would take about \$24 million to renovate;

Dr. Stokes said we would also like to emphasize a "credit recovery academy". This is for kids entering the 9th grade that are behind academically. We could hold them there and try to catch them up academically before they enter the 10th, 11th and 12th grades and try to keep them from dropping out.

Dr. Stokes said the third option would be to retain Dothan High and Northview and try to establish our theme base academies, two at one school and two at the other. He said to bring Dothan High up to something; even comparable to Northview it would take \$8 to \$12 million. Then you would still have a 60 year old facility. Dr. Stokes said the consultants do not think it is a good idea to have two separate campuses and have theme based academies and programs at separate campuses because they will have to drive back and forth. He said for one, this poses a safety issue with the students being in a hurry to get from one campus to the other and also the students tend not to use the facilities if they have to drive all the way across town to get there. The final option is to do nothing, just continue with what we are doing now. Dr. Stokes said he thought this would be a mistake. He said Dr. Register will make his report to the Dothan School Board next week. He will go into greater detail with everything. Then the following week, Dr. Nichols will make his final recommendations. Dr. Stokes said then we would like to have about 2 months for the community to think about things and give us input. He said now is the time to make a decision and we need to get it right. Dr. Stokes said he

hopes the School Board can make a decision late July or early August so we can push forward with something that this community can feel good about.

Mayor Thomas asked if there would be any public forums held? Dr. Stokes said we will do whatever the community wants to do. He said we will go to churches, community centers, high schools or where ever we need to go so we can get the input of the community. He said our education system is the community's education system and whether we fail or succeed as a community it is going to depend upon the education process that we have.

Commissioner Barbaree expressed appreciation to Dr. Stokes and the School Board for all the work and planning that has been put into this.

Commissioner Tidwell asked for an update on how the magnet schools are going? Dr. Sam Nichols said the magnet schools are still very attractive to parents. He said we had to change our application process this year at Carver where we had to create criteria for entrance into the school. Dr. Nichols said in the past we had lotteries and the lottery is still in force at Montana.

Commissioner Matthews asked about the children who live in the neighborhoods around the schools. Dr. Nichols said there is a preference zone around Montana Magnet School where there is not one around Carver. The one around Montana encompasses several city blocks around that facility and any child that applies has a preference for getting into that school.

Commissioner Barbaree asked if the plan Dr. Stokes presented included the elementary and middle schools also? Dr. Nichols said the strategic plan addressed K-12. He said there were committees working at all three levels. Dr. Nichols said we have a program under way where we are looking at the middle schools. Commissioner Barbaree asked if Dr. Register will cover K-8 grades in his report? Dr. Nichols said he has had the opportunity to work with our middle schools. He said we are starting some initiatives at the middle school level, without any restructuring at this point in time, that we feel like will be very beneficial to our kids.

Commissioner Tidwell said he understood there was some influx over to Carver from some of the middle schools that did not test well with the school of choice. Dr. Nichols said last summer we had to open up the enrollment and we accepted 247 sixth graders which is about 47 more than we normally accept because of school of choice. Commissioner Tidwell asked if they had been tested again this year? Dr. Nichols said yes, all of the middle schools have been tested and we will know in August whether or not those schools will continue in school improvements, or whether or not school of choice will go away. Dr. Nichols said this is very important to this community. Public education is the backbone of a community. It dictates to a community what can be done and what the potential is and what the possibilities can be.

Mayor Thomas announced that on May 15th at 9:00 a.m. "Law Enforcement Memorial Week" will be observed in the Dothan Civic Center to honor our fallen officers over the past years.

Mayor Thomas welcomed Debbie West, wife of City Manager Mike West to the meeting and also Ellen and Beth Lee, wife and daughter of Commissioner Paul Lee.

Commissioner Matthews asked for an update on affordable housing. City Manager West said we will look at the availability of housing in the market place. We are required to do a need assessment. The affordability will be an analysis of the average income versus the average sales price of homes and trying to determine whether we have adequate housing.

Kim Meeker, Leisure Services and Angela Turner, Tournament Coordinator announced that the Movie Gallery Pro Classic Tennis Tournament will begin this weekend with qualifying starting on Sunday and Monday. The tournament will last throughout the week with finals being on Sunday, April 21st beginning at 1:00 p.m. WTVY will air the broadcast live.

City Manager West reminded everyone of the public hearing at Andrew Belle Center on April 12th regarding the Gussie McMillon Park.

Jerry Corbin, Public Works Director updated the Commission on the Main Street Paving Project. He said all of the jobs are bid at the state level in Montgomery. The state has called the division office in Troy and has agreed to award the project to APAC. They received the notification on March 23rd. Mr. Corbin said the state leaves some discretion to the contractor as to when they want to start a job. He said they do that because if the contractor has other work they are doing or if they are bidding work at the same time they can better schedule a start date and it lowers the price. Mr. Corbin said he could not say when exactly they will start. He said there will be a preconstruction conference that is required in the next few weeks. Mr. Corbin said the best we can all figure out, the project should start sometime in July. Mr. Corbin said they bid it in two projects. APAC was the low bidder on both projects. One project is to go from the east side of the Circle on Main and go across the west side of the Circle. The second project will be from the west side of the Circle all the way out to the Webb city limit line. One project was a little over \$4 million and one was a little less than \$2 million. Mr. Corbin said it is funded and it has been awarded and it is going to happen. Commissioner Barbaree asked if the crossovers were included. Mr. Corbin said yes.

Larry Muench, General Services Director updated the Commission on the Animal Shelter Improvements. Mr. Muench said when we started work on the animal shelter there were seven objectives that were identified that we wanted to accomplish in Phase I of the project. Correction of ventilation and odor problems in the main building, construction of a new outdoor kennel and runs, construction of a permanent euthanasia facility, construction of a permanent storage building, improving the site security, installation of new landscaping and developing a long term facility site plan. Mr. Muench said they are moving very well on the project. Polyengineering has awarded the bid for the correction of the ventilation problems in the building to Air Conditioning Associates. That work should start in about 4 weeks when the equipment arrives. Polyengineering is working on the specifications for the rest of the repairs inside the building at this time. Mr. Muench said he would anticipate within two weeks we would have those specifications finished and ready to go out for bid on that work. The old kennel outside of the facility has been torn down by the street division of Public Works. A large amount of bad base material has been removed. Mr. Muench said work will begin Monday on pouring the slabs for the new euthanasia building and the new kennel. The euthanasia facility will be constructed by General Services as soon as the slab is poured. Chief Powell has approved the final designs for a new fencing plan, which will completely surround the property and will hopefully eliminate problems with breaking in and thefts of property out there. Specifications for the fencing were completed today and by next week we will have those bids out to completely refence the facility. Nancy Walker has completed the preliminary plans for the new landscaping out there. As soon as the construction work is finished that work will be ready to go and the Police Department is working on long range plans for that facility. Mr. Muench said if everything goes according to plan, Phase I of the plan should be completed by mid-summer.

City Manager West said the elevator crew will be in this week to start construction on the elevator.

City Manager West said a press conference was held today to kickoff the Wiregrass Festival of Murals – A Celebration of the Arts Festival. The festival will be held May 1 – 5 in downtown Dothan.

City Manager West announced that the Tri State BBQ Cook-off will be held May 19th.

City Manager West said the Second Annual “Movies Under the Stars” will be held this coming Saturday night at Rip Hewes Stadium.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-134 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), entering into an agreement with G. Mark Pepe,

Minutes of the Board of Commissioners – April 10, 2007, continued.

Architect, P.C. to provide architectural service, including construction administration, for renovations and repairs to the Dothan Opera House at a cost not to exceed \$19,550.00. Commissioner Tidwell moved for adoption, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and unanimously adopted.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-135 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), approving the payment of invoices for the month of March, 2007 in the amount of \$9,112,003.39. Commissioner Tidwell moved for adoption, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and unanimously adopted.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-136 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), awarding the following bids and approving other purchases over \$7,500.00 by the City. Commissioner Rudd read each item in the meeting.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
New Radar Units	Applied Concepts, Inc. Plano, TX	\$ 2,695.00 ea.
Re-Bid of the Annual Garbage Collection at Recreation Facilities	Waste Management Dothan, AL	\$ 7,833.00
Sign Post (300) or more 12 ft. and Sign Post (11) or more 10 ft.	Vulcan Signs Foley, AL	\$ 27.66 ea. 12 ft. Sign Post \$ 23.10 ea. 10 ft. Sign Post
Re-Bid Sampling Monitoring at Water Wells and Water Distribution System	Guardian Systems, Inc. Leeds, AL	\$55,296.10 or \$54,743.14 With 1% Discount

Other Purchases:

Youth Softball Officials	Houston Sports Officials Dothan, AL	\$10,720.00
--------------------------	--	-------------

Commissioner Tidwell then moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2007-136, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and unanimously carried.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-137 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), approving the following advance travel requests for City employees:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
William Roberson David Williams	American Humane Society- Euthanasia by Injection Birmingham, AL	\$ 1,092.00
John R. Powell	Alabama Association Chiefs of Police May 2007 Conference Point Clear, AL	\$ 563.52
Cynthia Green	3CMA Mid-Year Conference City-County Communications & Marketing Association Portsmouth, VA	\$ 1,394.30

Commissioner Tidwell then moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2007-137, motion seconded by Commissioner Newsome and unanimously carried.

There being no further business, Commissioner Tidwell moved that the meeting be adjourned, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and upon the unanimous vote of "yea," the meeting was duly adjourned.

/s/Pam McCoy, City Clerk

See approval next page:

Approved:

/s/Pat Thomas, Mayor

/s/Larry Matthews, Associate Commissioner

/s/Amos M. Newsome, Jr., Associate Commissioner

Paul Lee, Associate Commissioner

/s/Jason Rudd, Associate Commissioner

/s/Taylor Barbaree, Associate Commissioner

/s/Phillip Tidwell, Associate Commissioner

BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS