

**MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
January 10, 2011**

The City Council convened in a Special Session in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Midland, Texas, at 10:01 a.m. on January 10, 2011.

Council Members present: Mayor W. Wesley Perry, Mayor Pro Tem John James (District 3), Council Member Scott Dufford (At-Large), Council Member Jerry Morales (At-Large), Council Member Jeff Sparks (District 1), Council Member Vicky Hailey (District 2), and Council Member Michael Trost (District 4).

Council Members absent: None.

1. Conduct Swearing-In Ceremony and all ancillary matters related thereto for the newly-elected Mayor and two newly-elected Council members

The invocation was led by Assistant Pastor, Robert Williams, of True-Lite Christian Fellowship.

Mayor Perry introduced the Midland Police Department Honor Guard for the presentation of the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Interim City Secretary Amy Turner administered the Oath of Office to each newly elected officer, as follows:

W. Wesley Perry	Mayor
John H. James	Council Member, District 3
Michael B. Trost	Council Member, District 4

Mayor Perry opened the floor for comments.

Council Member Trost stated he was looking forward to serving another term, introduced his wife and son, and congratulated the other newly elected members.

Council Member James thanked his campaign staff.

Mayor Perry was appreciative of another opportunity to be the Mayor and introduced his parents.

The meeting was recessed at 10:13 a.m.

Mayor Perry reconvened the meeting at 10:35 a.m. in the basement conference room with all member of the City Council being present.

Staff members present: City Manager, Courtney Sharp, First Assistant City Attorney John Ohnemiller, Deputy City Manager Tommy Hudson, Assistant City Manager Marcus Johnston, Interim City Secretary Amy Turner, Fire Chief Robert Isbell, Police Chief Price Robinson, Community Services Director Tina Jauz, Director of Finance Bob McNaughton, Development Services Director Rick Crownover, Director of Solid Waste Morris Williams, City Engineer David Beard, Public Information Officer Tasa Watts, Assistant Utility Director Jill Reed, GIS Manager Bill Hodge, and Internal Audit Manager Debbie Gotovac,

2. Meet with administrative staff, department managers and others in a workshop to discuss and consider public policy, personnel issues, annexation issues, water-related issues, land acquisition and disposition issues, street paving, infrastructure needs, privatization of City services and recreational activities, development issues, economic development issues, public health issues, public safety issues, and operational procedures of the City, and to develop priorities for the upcoming year and for long-term planning. The City Council shall also discuss and consider the goals and development of the City.

City Manager Sharp noted that the regular retreat is scheduled for April and that several Council Members asked for an update prior to that time. He distributed a copy of the current year strategic plan and noted that many of the items would be reviewed.

Director of Finance McNaughton addressed each individual operating fund noting that the individual department managers have done a remarkable job of controlling costs. He reviewed funds from the general fund, sales tax, hotel/motel fund, water and sewer fund, sanitation fund, golf course fund, airport fund, sports complex, garage fund, and medical/dental self-insurance fund.

City Manager Sharp noted that he would like to propose a 3% across-the-board cost of living adjustment beginning April 1. Finance Director McNaughton felt that the adjustment could be made without amending the budget.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:23 a.m. and reconvened at 11:53 a.m.

Assistant Utility Director Reed introduced herself noting that their challenge is coming up with a 50-year plan and discussed potential water sources and the possibility of joint agreements. Mayor Perry gave an update on ongoing water negotiations and potential partnerships. Council consensus was that Mayor Perry would continue to take the lead regarding water.

Director of Solid Waste Williams distributed the solid waste improvement schedule and reviewed it with Council. They discussed the water monitoring wells at the landfill, the interior fencing that is used to catch litter, the need for new scales, and proposed changes to the Smith Road citizen collection station.

Assistant City Manager Johnston gave an update on radio communication interoperability. He distributed an article from Sunday's paper on the issue as well as a printout from Homeland Security noting that the target date is 2015 to have P25 compatibility with radios. He explained that P25 is a set of standards that communications equipment needs to follow between fire, police, sanitation and any others. He noted that a consultant has evaluated the system to see what is needed to become compliant by 2015. A discussion ensued about funding opportunities, programmability of the current radios, and current difficulty communicating in outlying areas of the county. He further noted that the consultant would be available in two weeks and would give a full report.

City Engineer Beard reviewed street paving by showing a PowerPoint presentation denoting what streets have been paved and what streets are still on the schedule. A discussion ensued about Terrell and Longview locations and the need to move them up as a priority. City Engineer Beard noted that all streets would be evaluated and ranked again.

City Manager Sharp reviewed upcoming council initiatives:

- Customer Service – Several customer service training sessions have been completed. The Citizen Action Center changes will be unveiled to the public on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Sports complex – The first available time that debt can be paid off is 2016. Time will be spent at the April session to develop a strategy and timeline to take the issue back to the voters.
- Facilities – There are several facilities that are old and in need of attention. A new fire station needs to be built and two existing stations need replacement. The new fire chief is coming up with strategies. This issue will also be discussed in April.

A discussion ensued about the short term goals. City Manager Sharp noted that although not all of the short-term goals have been achieved, progress is being made. It was reported that the MDC was given the reins on developing a unified strategy for the downtown and meetings are being held every other month with key stakeholders. Phase II of the Centennial Plaza is grant is on target and the Texas end of Loraine should be completed this year.

Council Member Hailey asked for the status of the 191/1788 corridor development. City Manager Sharp noted that most cities developed around the interstate, but Midland chose to develop around the loop. He reported that staff recommends utilizing Parkhill, Smith and Cooper to complete an absorption study around the I-20 corridor at an approximate cost of \$35,000. Consensus was received to move forward with the absorption study.

A discussion ensued about the agreement with MDC to place a water line down Highway 191, how connection fees could be recouped, and potential service areas. Discussions continued about fees and whether the City is charging what it should. City Manager Sharp noted that those fees would tie into the upcoming budget process and staff would make recommendations on fee increases.

Council Member Dufford asked for an update on the free Wi-Fi at the airport. Deputy City Manager Hudson noted that the study is completed and will be presented soon.

Council Member Dufford asked for an update on oil and gas drilling at the Midland Airpark. City Manager Sharp noted that the RFP was ready and will be on a future agenda for Council consideration.

Council Member Dufford asked how the traffic light synchronization project is going. Consensus was received that it is going well. A brief discussion ensued about red light running and the possibility of moving forward with cell phone/texting regulations if not addressed by the legislature.

A discussion ensued about the opportunities for Council to have open dialogue such as this meeting. Consensus was received to schedule 30 minutes of a briefing session every 2-3 months.

Mayor Perry asked for the Council to support MISD Superintendant Warren. A discussion ensued about what the Council can do to make education a top priority in Midland, and the possibility of scheduling a joint meeting with the school board or at a minimum a few select members from the school board. Council Member Hailey suggested that the same be done with Midland County.

City Manager Sharp closed by noting the big retreat would be held in April with Ron Holifield facilitating. He relayed that the Texas Tech survey would be complete by that time and the Council could use the results as a benchmark for future years.

Council Member Morales asked for an update on how many staff members each department has versus the number they should have. City Manager Sharp noted that he would get those figures to the Council.

All of the business at hand having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011.

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W. Wesley Perry, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Amy M. Turner, Interim City Secretary