

**MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 7, 2011**

A quorum of the City Council gathered at Midland Center, 105 North Main Street, Midland, Texas, at 11:45 a.m. on March 7, 2011.

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

The Reverend Roy Smith of True-Lite Christian Fellowship offered the invocation. The Midland Fire Department Honor Guard posted the colors, and Master of Ceremonies Daphne Dowdy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Bowie Fine Arts Magnet Academy Choir sang the National Anthem.

Following lunch, Mayor Perry made a few opening remarks, introduced his wife and parents, recognized Council Members and County Commissioners who were present, recognized staff, and thanked the sponsors.

A videotaped interview between Daphne Dowdy and Mayor Perry was shown addressing the state of the city. Their conversation stated that the city is currently faring very well, the current unemployment rate is 4.9% which is the lowest in the state, and sales tax revenues have been strong. There were no significant cuts to services in the current budget and all of the employees worked together to control the budget. Crimes rates were down across the board. New drilling technology has made it easier to extract oil which continues to help with Midland's economy. Midland has a broad range of jobs available. City leaders are looking to the future and preparing infrastructure for continued growth of the city. One particular infrastructure is water and the Council is looking for an executable plan for water for the region to sustain us for the the next 50 years. Mayor Perry addressed the upcoming water conservation which will last throughout the summer to curtail peak water usage. He addressed the improvements in traffic flow throughout the city as a result of the traffic light management system, and addressed the development in the downtown area and the expectancy of continued growth. Development has occurred on SH 191 and there are plans to place infrastructure through that area to encourage future growth. They discussed the continued need for affordable workforce housing and the new front yard parking ordinance that was adopted which balances the need to protect property values and the need to park on yards of streets with no curb and gutter. Mayor Perry also spoke about the culture committee that was formed from all city departments to improve the overall culture of the city and noted that the demographics of the city have shifted to a younger population. He closed by asking everyone to remember that we are all one large family and we should all be responsible for ourselves and to look out for our neighbors.

Following the presentation Mayor Perry recognized the Midland High School Ensemble Band and thanked them for providing music.

Mayor Perry then opened the floor for questions. Discussion revealed the need for more fire stations, that step-raises will likely be given this year, that the state budget shortfalls should not heavily impact the City, that the City of Midland employee pensions are well funded, that the City's reserve fund is where it should be, and the need for more recycling in the City.

Mayor Perry expressed appreciation to everyone in attendance, advising that the City Council and staff is committed to continue working together with our citizens to make our community better.

No action was taken on any matter discussed.

The event was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED the 12th day of April, 2011.

W. Wesley Perry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy M. Turner, Interim City Secretary