

February 16, 2010

A quorum of the City Council gathered at Midland Center, 105 North Main Street, Midland, Texas, at 11:35 a.m. on February 16, 2010, with the following members present:

W. Wesley Perry,
John H. James,
Jerry F. Morales,
Vicky Hailey,
Michael B. Trost,

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Council member - At-Large
Council member - District 2
Council member - District 4

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City Council members gathered along with citizens of the City for a luncheon during which the Mayor presented the 2010 State of the City address. Council members were present as non-participating members of the audience.

The Reverend Michael Philliber offered the invocation. The Midland Fire Department Honor Guard posted the colors, and Master of Ceremonies Stephanie Rivas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Bowie Fine Arts Academy Choir sang the National Anthem.

Following lunch, Mayor Perry recognized City Council members present, along with several County and other officials.

Mayor Perry presented the State of the City address. Recalling that it has been only about a year since Midland welcomed President Bush home with gratitude for his service to our nation, the Mayor recognized the many accomplishments and changes that have taken place in the City since then. Among other things, he cited construction of a new water storage tower and a project in progress for a water re-use plant at Midland College. The continuing investment in downtown is evidenced by a renovated Centennial Plaza, accomplished with the help of funding provided by the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone. A new BMX track has been opened, ground was broken for the new Performing Arts Center, and the City has been expanded to include the S.H.191/FM 1788 corridor to assure quality future development. Mayor Perry recognized the efforts of our citizens who have worked to develop Vision 2020, and he emphasized that this undertaking by the people of our City to establish goals and direction for the decade ahead has been an important factor in Midland's development for many years. The Mayor also acknowledged the contributions of the Young Professionals of Midland and of the Greater Ideal Baptist Church, noting that these groups exemplify those in our community who see different needs and get involved to make a difference. Mayor Perry turned to water issues, reviewing existing resources and emphasizing the importance of current efforts to explore potential future resources and conservation alternatives. He added that if our current primary source, the Colorado River Municipal Water District, finds it necessary to ration water in the near future, we will need to rethink the way we use this resource. The Mayor also reviewed Midland's crime statistics, noting that the crime rate is down despite the City's population increase and declaring that Midland is safer than ever before. He acknowledged concerns regarding traffic issues, however, and challenged all Midland citizens to drive in a safe and friendly manner. The Mayor concluded with the observation that the City has operated in a difficult budgetary environment this year, and he expressed pride that the City has reduced property taxes while maintaining a high level of services for its citizens.

Mayor Perry then opened the floor for questions and comments from citizens. Audience comments focused on the need to better maintain lane markings on a local arterial street, advocated the prohibition of cell phone use by drivers, and expressed gratitude for the City's support of our public transportation system, especially the paratransit services. Asked about the impact of future growth on the City's character and direction, Mayor Perry advised that Midland has an open, independent, entrepreneurial culture which must be preserved, and that although we will do some things differently in the future, keeping leaders that want to preserve that spirit will assure the continued progress of the City. In addition, the Mayor responded to a question regarding the City's role in resolving chromium water contamination problems elsewhere in the County, advising that the City will work in collaboration with the County to help find ways to resolve this issue.

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.

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The event was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.