



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE ("LRC")
Meeting Action Report

Committee: Economic Development, Planning & Tourism

Members: City Representative Steve Ortega (Chair)
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Ann Lilly
City Representative Cortney Niland

Date of Meeting: September 15, 2011

Items 3-5 were taken together since they were all regarding revisions to Title 18.

- I. Discussion and action on an ordinance amending Title 18 (Building and Construction), Chapter 18.10 (Residential Code), of the El Paso City Code, by adding section 18.10.265 (Protection of Water Service Entrance) and section 18.10.266 (Plumbing Within Exterior Walls) to help prevent pipes from freezing during severe weather, the penalty being as provided in section 18.02.107 (Violations and Penalties) of the El Paso City Code.
- II. Discussion and action on an ordinance amending Title 18 (Building and Construction), Chapter 18.20 (Plumbing Code), of the El Paso City Code, by adding section 18.20.240 (Protection of Water Service Entrance) and section 18.20.250 (Plumbing Within Exterior Walls) to help prevent pipes from freezing during severe weather, the penalty being as provided in section 18.02.107 (Violations and Penalties) of the El Paso City Code.
- III. Discussion and action on an ordinance amending Title 18 (Building and Construction), Chapter 18.28 (Existing Building Code), of the El Paso City Code, by adding section 18.28.060 (Plumbing Repairs) to help prevent pipes from freezing during severe weather, the penalty being as provided in section 18.02.107 (Violations and Penalties) of the El Paso City Code.

Summary:

Staff explained that the proposed language provided for inexpensive changes in efforts to prevent ruptured water lines. This will provide for the use of alternative materials which are more resistant to freezing as well as more appropriate placement of water service lines.

Action Taken for Items 3-5:

The LRC voted 4-0 to approve and move to the full Council.

Disposition:

Items 3-5 will be presented to the full City Council.

- IV. Discussion and action on an ordinance amending Title 18 (Building and Construction), Chapter 18.02 (Building and Construction Administrative Code) section 18.02.108.51 (Bond Required), of the El Paso City Code, to allow for additional exceptions to the \$50,000 Bond Requirement, the penalty being as provided in section 18.02.107 (Violations and Penalties) of the El Paso City Code.

Summary:

Presentation made by staff regarding proposed amendment to the above ordinance. City Attorney's office explained that the bonds were annual bonds for the protection of homeowners. Representative Niland asked that staff research what other cities in Texas were doing and be able to justify the \$50,000 or recommend that it be reduced. She asked that this information be forwarded to City Council before the item goes to the City Council. Representative Byrd stated that contractors preferred the yearly bond to a per-project bond which was more costly and cumbersome for the industry.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted 4-0 to move forward to the full Council without recommendation.

Disposition:

Staff will provide information to City Council Representatives prior to the item being heard by the full Council.

- V. Discussion and action on amending Titles 19 and 20 to require a Traffic Impact Analysis to include regional modeling for amendments to the Major Thoroughfare Plan (MTP).

Summary:

El Paso Department of Transportation staff presented. Representative Lilly asked whether 90 days was enough time to get the information needed by TIAs and was told by staff that should be enough time. Representative Byrd asked about the new MTP through the Comprehensive Plan; staff explained they were hoping to award the provision of the Comprehensive Plan process soon, complete the process and adopt it by February of 2012.

Action:

No action taken.

Disposition:

Staff will report back to the LRC when they receive information.

- VI. Update on Adaptive Reuse for Trolley Inventory.

Summary:

Presentation by staff- Representative Ortega's office.

Committee Chair Ortega stated that this offered an opportunity to bring streetcars back into the community in various capacities. Committee Chair Ortega would like to know if the LRC would like to

recommend to the Council to go forward and investigate what cost would be associated in transporting the cars to a protected, climate-controlled environment, such as the car barn. The car barn is not currently in use, and he would like to put together a request for proposal as it relates to bringing those cars back to adaptive reuse for the downtown area.

Representative Niland stated that involving the fun factor in mass transit would be likely to attract riders, as well as the historical aspect of reusing the trolley cars. She also stated that she would like to see further discussion on using the trolley system and also using trolleys for other uses.

Committee Chair Ortega explained that with the help of Commissioner Houghton at TxDOT a study has been done by Cambridge Systematics to examine the feasibility of re-introducing the concept of streetcars from downtown to the UTEP area. Per the Cambridge analysis, that project offers from an 8-1 to 15-1 return on investment over a 15 year period. Deputy City Manager Shang stated that they are looking for funding to assist in this project, and have submitted grant applications; cost estimates by HNTB for the downtown area is \$90 million. She also said these projects are more often successful when tied in to Economic Development.

Action:

No action taken

Disposition:

Staff will report back to the LRC with a cost estimate of moving the streetcars that are on airport property to the streetcar barn on Cotton & Olive. At that point the LRC can determine if it wants to go before Council with a Request for Proposals.

VII. Discussion and action on implementing a retail stimulus program in the area immediately surrounding the San Jacinto Plaza area.

Summary:

Presentation by Mathew McElroy. An overview was presented of the structure of downtown Orlando CRA Retail Stimulus Program and the feasibility of structuring something similar in downtown El Paso was discussed.

Action:

The LRC voted 4-0 to direct City staff to come up with a preliminary program, and one that might be more tailored towards El Paso and our economy, and that would include both restaurants and residential and bring to the full Council for further discussion.

Disposition:

Staff will meet with Bill Blaziek and come up with a set of goals for the downtown area before the 2015 Bowling Tournament.

At a future LRC, date not determined, the LRC would like a discussion of the use of a big event to rebuild the City.

Committee Chair Ortega would also like to have specific discussions about the Kress Building, the Robert Spanner Building, and the northern face of the Plaza.

SUBMITTED BY:

City Representative Steve Ortega, District 7
Chair, Economic Development, Planning & Tourism LRC

Deborah Hamlyn, Deputy City Manager
Community Services