



Meeting Minutes
City Council

Thursday, September 29, 2016

5:00 PM

Council Chamber

WORK SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Mayor Olin Lane, Councilmember Taylor Armstrong, Mayor Pro Tem Dawn Moore, Councilmember Randy Biddle and Councilmember Gage Prichard

II. OPEN WORK SESSION - No action was taken

Council met in an open work session to discuss a request by James E. Strode, for a change of zoning from three different adjoining districts into a single, mixed-use Planned Development District., including consideration of an illustrative Conceptual Site Plan. The subject tract is approximately 1.58 acres, situated between Daniel and Haynie Avenues and West of Hillcrest Ave., and described as part of lot 6 and all of lots 7 thru 12, Block 3, University Park Addition.

Mayor Lane called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

Director of Community Development Patrick Baugh gave a presentation and covered the "Worksheet" summarizing the issues associated with the development and rezoning request. Pat said that with the traffic study, there will be a post-occupancy study/mitigation.

Pat said that the current proposal in the rendering shows the glass/stone ribbon around three sides of the building.

He said that the garage access has been resolved with an agreement to have access from both Daniel and Haynie.

Pat noted that the Council seemed to be in agreement about the proposed 127,880 square feet total floor area for the development.

Mayor Lane read a letter from former Councilmember Bob Clark giving background on past discussions concerning height maximums for Snider Plaza and area zoning districts.

The Mayor read a second letter from Jim Strode of SPC Hillcrest, L.P. (the developer) offering comments for this meeting. He said they felt that the height of the building and the parking were the two unresolved issues. He said that he believes the above-grade parking is very important to the development and that surface parking is simply not enough. He offered to

reduce the height of the parking structure from 31 to 17 feet. He said that the wall along Haynie would be solid to help abate headlight pollution and noise to the Haynie neighbors. Mr. Strode addressed the perception among the neighborhood group that he would gouge shoppers with high rates in his parking garage. He said he would agree to charge \$3/hour after the first free hour for parking in 84 spaces reserved for Snider Plaza shoppers.

Mayor Lane said that the Council had received a lot of correspondence about this development and re-zoning proposal. He said he was disturbed at the tone of some letters that the Council is not listening to the neighborhood and those concerned about the size of the building. The Mayor listed several concessions offered by the developer to address the concerns about the development. Mayor Lane said he feels good that there will be 84 new parking spaces available to Snider Plaza and that this is the best deal to come along since he's been involved on the Council to alleviate the parking spot shortage in the Plaza. He is pleased

Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked how many parking spaces are being cut out from the garage with the developer's compromise to modify the parking garage. The developer said that there are 35 extra spaces beyond what he needs for his building.

Councilmember Biddle said that he likes the two-story parking garage.

Councilmember Prichard said that the Haynie residents prefer underground parking and would accept a two-story office building on the property. Councilmember Prichard says he thinks the two-story above ground parking is a better solution because the neighbors would not have to have office tenants looking down on their homes. He and Councilmember Biddle agreed that the solid wall with greenery and landscaping along the Haynie side of the parking garage would be preferable to view than a below-ground garage topped by an office building.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore said that she is conscientious about balancing the aesthetics of the development with the parking needed for the area.

Mayor Lane asked the group if there was consensus on the 95' compromise on the height of the building. There was no opposition from the Council.

The Mayor asked to discuss the proposed masonry ribbon around three sides of the building and glass only on the north side. Councilmember Armstrong asked if the developer could be given some ratio guidelines for the glass/stone ratio, and then the final design could be presented for approval to the Council. City Manager Corder said that there is one ordinance that will lay out everything when it comes time for a vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked about keeping the glare of the glass off the south side of the building. Pat Baugh said that you can specify a percentage of glass to stone per floor.

Councilmember Armstrong asked Pat Baugh for clarification about what the

Council can do in terms of the design of the building, that the Council is not a "design review committee." Pat said that the elevations are provided to give a general idea of what the building will look like. If the Council knows what it wants on the exterior, it can specify it in the ordinance. Otherwise, the ordinance will provide general guidelines so that the developer can make some modifications to the exterior appearance.

Councilmember Prichard said he would like the stone ribbon to extend all the way around the building, that all-glass structures will look antique in a few years. Councilmember Armstrong said that he's reluctant to discuss the design too much. Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Councilmember Armstrong said they think the north side of the building will not produce the same glare that the other sides might, so they would prefer not to see the masonry on the north side.

City Manager Corder was asked to provide the economic impact of the building. He said the development would provide approximately \$90,000 in property tax revenue based on a comp of the Trevor Rees-Jones property. \$100,000-\$125,000 sales taxes per year is a rough estimate of what the retail in the development might provide.

City Attorney Rob Dillard asked if the setbacks underground are different than the setbacks above-ground. Pat said that underground setbacks are zero feet.

Mayor Lane asked if the Council had any other comments or questions. He adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

III. ADJOURNMENT

As authorized by Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into Closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any Agenda items listed herein.

CERTIFICATE:

I, Christine Green, City Secretary, do hereby certify that a copy of this Agenda was posted on the City Hall bulletin board, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times, and on the City's website, www.uptexas.org, in compliance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

DATE OF POSTING: _____

TIME OF POSTING: _____

Christine Green, City Secretary