

Julie Masters, Mayor  
Mark Townsend  
Kerry Neves  
Mary Dunbaugh, Mayor Pro Tem

# MINUTES

City of Dickinson  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

Charles Suderman  
Louis Decker  
William H. King III  
Julie M. Johnston, City  
Administrator

**MARCH 15, 2008**

The Dickinson City Council met in a duly called and announced **SPECIAL STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGET RETREAT** on **SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008**. The meeting was held at the Kemah Boardwalk Inn, 701 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Kemah, Galveston County, Texas, and was held for the purpose of considering the following items:

**ITEM 1.) CALL TO ORDER AND CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM**  
Invocation.

Mayor Julie Masters called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Councilman William King gave the Invocation. City Secretary Carol McLemore called roll and certified a quorum. Council Members present were as follows: Mayor Julie Masters, Mayor Pro Tem Mary Dunbaugh and Council Members Charles Suderman, Mark Townsend, Kerry Neves, William King, and Louis Decker. Also present were City Administrator, Julie Johnston, Police Chief, Ron Morales, Finance Director Usha Mathew, Director of Fire Service, Norman Hicks, Director of Public Works, Kellis George, Community Development Coordinator, Angela Forbes, Court Administrator, Irma Rivera, Library Director Vicki McAllister, Director of Tourism and Museum, Dee Cover, Public Works Assistant Shanika Brooks, and Building Inspector Mike Ingalsbe.

**ITEM 2.) BRIEFING, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION CONCERNING:** Strategic Planning and FY 2008-2009 Budget.

City Administrator Julie Johnston reviewed the priorities that were set by City Council in 2006, the actions taken by City staff in 2006 and 2007 to achieve those priorities, and considerations for priorities for 2008 that would be utilized in developing the FY 2008-2009 budget.

City Council discussed a number of issues related to the priorities and budget and identified its Top 3 Priorities for 2008 as:

- Capital Improvement Program
  1. Commence Construction of City Hall/Library Project
  2. Streets/Drainage Projects
  3. Street Striping Program
  4. Street Sign Replacement Program
  5. Inclusion of Island Drive Bridge in Tropical Gardens
  6. Comprehensive Drainage Study

7. Staff needs assessment for Police Station
  8. Resolution of ETJ Issues with League City
- Economic Development
    1. Creation of Comprehensive Plan
    2. Creation of Overlay Districts for I-45 Corridor, Highway 3 Corridor and FM 517 Corridor (Timber to Spruce)
    3. Business Recruitment and Retention Program
  - Public Safety
    1. Provide Adequate Staffing
    2. Continue Utilization of Second Ambulance
    3. Expansion of Street Lighting Program
    4. Development of an Explorer Post
    5. Participation in Galveston County Narcotics Task Force

The Council also discussed FY 2008-2009 Budget Policy Issues. The consensus was to keep the tax rate at the same rate or lower, and to look at all possible revenue sources. They also heard a recommendation from the City Administrator to look at the following personnel and equipment needs:

- Personnel Needs
  1. COLA vs. Merit Increases
  2. Positions
    - a. Information Technology
    - b. Fleet Manager
    - c. Facilities Maintenance
    - d. Police 5-year Manpower Plan
    - e. Firefighter/Paramedics
    - f. PT to FT Library System Administrator
    - g. PT to FT Guest Services Assistant (Tourism and Museum)
- Equipment/Vehicle Needs
  1. Continue Medic 2 in service – Option to re-chassis both Medic 1 and 2 instead of purchasing one new ambulance.
  2. Continuation of motorcycle lease agreements or purchase City-owned motorcycles
  3. Mobile Video Camera Equipment
  4. Four (4) replacement Police Vehicles

**ITEM 3.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING:** City Hall/Library Project.

Councilman Suderman stated that, in the process of trying to bring down the price of the City Hall/Library complex, he felt that many things were left out of the building that are really necessary. He asked that the Council consider building the City Hall and putting in the infrastructure for the Library but constructing the Library at a later date when the money is available. Some discussion followed regarding the use of the bond money. The City Administrator was directed to contact bond counsel to determine if all the money could be used for the construction of the new city hall and the library constructed at a later date. Councilman Decker agreed that all alternatives need to be looked at. Mayor Masters and Mayor Pro Tem Dunbaugh expressed that construction should proceed on both buildings. No action was taken.

**ITEM 4.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING:** Changing the Time of City Council Meetings.

Councilman Decker advised the Council that he wanted some consideration given to moving the time of Regular City Council Meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. After some discussion, it was agreed to leave the time of Regular Council Meetings at 7:00 p.m.

Passed, approved and adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.

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Julie Masters, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Carol L. McLemore, City Secretary