

NEWS RELEASE:

**City of Alvin
216 West Sealy
Alvin, Texas 77511**



February 10, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALVIN CONTINUES STEPS TOWARD CONVENTION CENTER

(City Hall, Alvin, TX) At its February 9th meeting, the Alvin City Council authorized the City Attorney to cancel the contracts for land that was being considered for purchase for the construction of a multi-purpose Convention Center. Through additional information from architectural and engineering companies, an improved method for this project is being assembled to ensure the best possible product for the community. Council member Jim Landriault stated, “We are still moving forward toward having a convention center here. Staff is bringing new information almost every week to help us in our decision making process. I am very pleased with the information that the focus group brought together. The information came from representatives of Alvin ISD, Alvin Community College, and our Convention and Visitors Bureau. Twenty-four different events with 40 to well over 1000 attendees were identified as potential uses by the community. We will include this valuable information as we move forward in our planning.”

An agenda item will be on the Council’s February 18th meeting to consider going out with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to bring in an architectural and engineering firm with specific experience in developing similar facilities. Included in this RFQ will be an overview of progress to date and a draft project schedule that will be the foundation of developing the full plan.

Mayor Gary Appelt stated, “I am still committed to work alongside the Council to bring this project forward. A convention center project was voted on by Council in its official goals last year. Through the year, staff has studied the needs of the region and developed a financial plan to move forward.” The financial plan uses a combination of Hotel Occupancy Tax and convention center revenues to fund all aspects of the project.

Hotel room rates include a 7% state hotel occupancy tax which comes back to the City specifically to fund activities and facilities that directly promote tourism and local hotel and convention activity. Council Member Roger Stuksa stated, “I support the project and am glad it is moving forward.”

Council Member Greg Bullard stated, “Key to this project is the financials. We are taking the necessary time using outside financial advisors to give us the best information possible. We will continue with our due diligence in this area as the other parts of the project move forward.”

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