

## Notes from Vision 2020 Infrastructure Committee Meeting June 19, 2007

The Infrastructure Master Plan Committee met on June 19, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. Present were: Tony Moline, James Flournoy, Barbara Thompson, Keith Wright, Dorothy Wilson, Kenneth Williams, Susie Cardwell, and presiding was Paul Parker.

Paul Parker opened the meeting and received reports on committee progress.

### **Parks and Recreation**

In the absence of Don Hannabas, Paul Parker reported the following.

- City of Lufkin Engineering is working with the Lufkin Parks Board to put in new restroom facilities at the girls' softball fields and renovation of the concession stands. These projects have been approved by City Council.
- Winston Pool has been shut down since the City is doing Boys and Girls Club contributions instead and will continue to evaluate feasibility of the Club versus the City's pool.
- Jones Pool has been temporarily closed due the lack of lifeguards. Kenneth Williams, Diboll City Manger, expressed their success with training local community kids through the Red Cross to become lifeguards.

### **Environment and Natural Resources**

Paul Parker announced that Ellen Temple was not able to attend today's meeting, but would be joining the committee in the future to assist with the Environment and Natural Resources strategies.

### **Transportation**

Keith Wright discussed updates on the transportation projects.

- **59 South** – Highway 59 is moving along on its preparation work for the rebuild even though it is already approximately 20% over budget and has a 38-month completion schedule. TxDot has bid out the job at \$39 million. It has a 6-month delay built in with a Christmas delay. At the end of August, they will be moving sewer and water lines.
- **Tulane Bridge** – The bridge at Tulane will be down for 18 months. The order of work will be the frontage roads, bridges, then main lanes
- **Whitehouse Plans** – The Whitehouse plans are in Austin at TxDot for review. The City has received some comments, but the staff is waiting for a complete plan review. The City hopes to have it bid by this summer.

James Flournoy discussed the following projects.

- **59 North** (toward Nacogdoches) – The City has to relocate utilities, some land is being purchased, and right of ways are being prepared for the construction of an overpass. The City hopes to bid out by 2008 and be in construction in 2009.

- **Industrial Park** - They have purchased additional land and are developing a master plan. All of the infrastructure is in place. Information is being explored on the County Railroad Commission idea for additional bonds. James will talk to Jim Wehmeier regarding this.

### **Downtown Redevelopment**

Barbara Thompson reported on the following projects.

- TxDot has started work on the Frank Street underpass that extends from Herndon to 4<sup>th</sup> Street along with the area under the railroad trestle. The underpass has been power washed and Tony Moline reported that they will stucco the underpass and put a brick facade on it. There will be trees and shrubs planted to hide the rail yard. Tony mentioned that the drainage problem needs to be fixed to maintain the underpass improvements. Barbara reported that TxDot broke some of the banners and brackets and will need to replace them. She has contacted TxDot on this. Barbara has asked Tony to assist with keeping an eye on the progress at the site.
- Mark Hicks is working on the renovation of a building at 117 First Street, and OccuCare satellite is going to move in to this location.
- 112 First Street is going to be an art studio.
- A possible jazz club may be moving downtown.
- The Pines Theater is in the process of being purchased for renovation.

### **Water/ Sewer/ Housing**

Dorothy Wilson reported that she is researching Existing Building Code of the ICC code family. There are new ordinances drafted and circulating for review in Lufkin on methods of infill, sign standards, aesthetic criteria and landscaping standards.

### **Beautification**

Tony Moline, of Angelina Beautiful Clean, reported on two projects in addition to the downtown underpass project.

- Tony needs community support from major businesses as “backers” for ABC’s Graffiti Prevention and Removal grant. This will provide education on the prevention of graffiti and the removal of it. Graffiti is a growing problem. Tony will draft a letter for people to personalize if they want to be backers. Paul Parker will talk to the Mayor and Kenneth Williams said he would like to have the letter as well. It was suggested that Tony contact Brookshire Brothers and Polk Oil Company,
- Cigarette butt litter and education is another big problem. Tony is also in need of support for the “pocket ashtrays” program for providing pocket disposal of cigarette butts.
- Lufkin was awarded \$95,000 for the Governor’s continued excellence program two years ago and will be eligible again next year. Tony would

like to use this money, if awarded again, for entrance signage for Lufkin and the surrounding towns.

### **Diboll City Projects**

Kenneth Williams reported on several projects underway in the City of Diboll.

- The water project with Temple-Inland has slowed down due to the sell of Temple-Inland and some of it's people moving to Austin that were involved in this project. Efforts are being made to move forward as soon as possible.
- There are two new subdivisions; one is on the golf course and the other is a 55-lot new subdivision.
- Diboll has re-opened its swimming pool and will remain open for the next two years.
- The Diboll Housing Foundation is assisting Diboll on working on the Diboll Sports Complex the schools, Temple-Inland and the City are collaborating for a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant with some Foundation matches. The City is working with the schools on land that needs to be cleared with the schools that have the timber rights.
- Diboll operated off of the proceeds of property taxes, where Lufkin operates off of its sales tax.

### **Lufkin Housing**

Paul Parker discussed two new subdivisions in Lufkin. The one off FM 324 has small lots and Rick Ainsworth is working on. There is a second project north of Brentwood and it will be upper end homes on large lots.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Infrastructure Committee will be at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.