

**BELTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 28, 2013 – 11:30 A.M.**

The Belton City Council met in special session in the Conference Room at Belton City Hall, 333 Water Street, with the following members present: Mayor Jim Covington, Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson, Councilmembers Craig Pearson, John Agan, Jerri Gauntt, and Dan Kirkley. Councilmember David K. Leigh was absent. Staff present were John Messer, Sam Listi, Connie Torres, Cristy Daniell, Mike Huber, Erin Newcomer, Paul Romer, and Aaron Harris.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Consider a resolution authorizing submission of an application for funding through the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization (KTMPPO), Statewide Transportation Planning Metropolitan Mobility, Category 7 Funding in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, for improvements to West Ninth Avenue, between Loop 121 and University Drive.

The City Manager explained KTMPPO has some funds the City would like to apply for in its continued effort to identify potential resources to help fund the 9th Avenue extension. KTMPPO was recently designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA), which provides \$8 million in federal funds directly to this region for allocation, available for roads, trails, transit, etc. With 10% dedicated to transit, about \$3 million is available for road projects in each of two years (2012-13 and 2013-14). Mr. Listi stated funding for this two year period will be allocated in September 2013 by the KTMPPO Policy Board based on project ranking of applications which are due today. Several applications are expected from the Cities of Harker Heights (\$3.5 million), Temple (\$3 million) and Killeen (amount unknown), and perhaps others.

Mr. Listi recommended the City of Belton submit an application for the 9th Avenue project based on the following:

- Project is consistent with KTMPPO Long Range Plan & Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Short Range Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and Belton's Thoroughfare Plan
- Committed partners:
  - Federal – \$750,000 earmarked in 2010
  - State/TxDOT – Project support/design review; signal Installation underway
  - UMHB funding
  - City's funding match
  - 20 letters of support
- Project Readiness
  - 95% design complete – Loop 121 to the entrance to Chisholm Trail Senior Village (CTSV)
  - Preliminary design done on CTSV to University Drive
  - ONCOR pole relocation complete
- Project safety, sustainability, and efficiency
  - Improved access for emergency personnel
  - Protection of historic resources
  - Facilitating connections for bikes, pedestrians, transit

The City Manager explained the City's application is for just under \$3 million, with a 20% match required (approximately \$700,000). He proposed using the same 20% match of \$1 million (\$800,000 City and \$200,000 UMHB), that the Council authorized in May for the TIGER grant, as only one \$800,000 City match will be needed for whichever grant is awarded. Funds for the match are available from the 2007 Certificate of Obligation bond issue and General Fund fund balance. He recommended the Council approve the resolution authorizing submission of the application

Mayor Pro Tem Grayson (who also serves on the KTMPPO Policy Board, representatives of region cities) gave an overview of the application review process and associated criteria. She stated she disagreed with Councilmember Gauntt's opinion that this should be a local project as opposed to a regional project. She indicated since this project links two state highways (SH 317 and Loop 121), TxDOT is very aware of traffic congestion along SH 317 during the school year. Due to the historic nature of

houses along Main Street, and its inability to be widened, they realize this project would benefit them as well, by diverting traffic to Loop 121. Ms. Grayson stated she believes it's worth it for the City to submit its application for consideration for funding to relieve congestion along 317.

The Mayor noted preparation of this application has been underway, but the City Manager realized formal consideration for submission hadn't occurred, so this meeting was scheduled for Council support. Councilmember Kirkley asked about available funding, and Ms. Grayson explained \$7 million is available. She stated the KTMO Board will basically pick projects deemed most ready and those that will help move projects off the TIP, which provides opportunity to use other federal funding on other projects. The Mayor stated two years of allocations are being combined – the total is \$8,033,026, with 90% available for roadway improvements, and the remaining 10% set aside for transit.

Councilmember Gauntt stated she believes the 9th Avenue project is a local project, not a regional project. Though she can now support the project, she thinks the City should stop seeking federal funds for a local project, as it has been rejected several times. Ms. Gauntt reiterated, because she thinks this is a local project, she believes local users should pay for it, and doesn't think it qualifies for Category 7 funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Grayson disagreed, citing the linkage of two state highways, and commented the City has built many projects with localized interest that are ultimately used by a lot of people (i.e. Sparta Road, detention ponds), and she believes 9th Avenue will also be used by many. Councilmember Kirkley stated he thinks those who continue to use only 317 will be most grateful for those who do use 9th Avenue, and he believes the project will definitely be a major benefit to people who live off of 317.

Mayor Covington stated the City's Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) indicates traffic on 317 over the next 10 years will be doubled. Councilmember Gauntt commented that the TIA also indicates major beneficiaries of the 9th Avenue Bridge will primarily be the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Mayor Pro Tem Grayson stated even if that is noted in the TIA, it is likely indicating that UMHB will utilize the road, thereby taking those travelers off of 317, which is the only way they have to go now. Ms. Gauntt suggested they could travel along Loop 121 to University Drive, and reiterated she believes local communities have to stand up and say federal funds aren't needed for a local project.

Councilmember Agan disagreed, and indicated he believes it is incumbent upon the City to apply. If the City can obtain federal funds, he thinks taxpayers will benefit as the funds will go elsewhere if not here; otherwise, the cost of the project must be totally borne by local citizens. Councilmember Pearson agreed, stating the State of Texas gives more highway funds to the federal government than it receives back in projects, and Councilmember Kirkley concurred, stating the City is already struggling to keep its tax rate down as it is. Councilmember Gauntt stated she thinks there are other contributors to the project, and though the project has been on the City's Thoroughfare Plan since the early 1980's, she is not sure why, since there was nothing out there. The City Manager stated the plan for the Loop was there, and 9th Avenue was shown as another east-west connection for distribution of outgoing traffic. He stated all other streets on that Thoroughfare Plan have been built, except this project. The City Attorney commented this project was added to the Thoroughfare Plan as soon as the Loop was built.

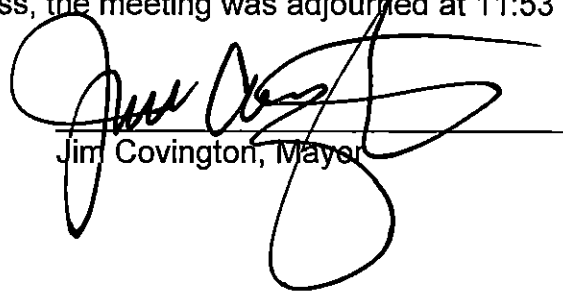
Councilmember Kirkley made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing submission of an application for funding through KTMO. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pearson, and the following captioned resolution was adopted by a vote of 5-1, with Councilmember Gauntt voting in opposition:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE KILLEEN-TEMPLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (KTMO) STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING METROPOLITAN MOBILITY (STPMM) CATEGORY 7 FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF**


**\$2,990,610 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR WEST NINTH AVENUE;  
AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACT AS THE CITY'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN  
ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE KTMO FUNDING AND  
SUPPORTING, ENDORSING, AND COMMITTING TO LOCAL FUNDING SHARE OF THE WEST  
NINTH AVENUE EXTENSION AND OVERPASS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.



Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Connie Torres, City Clerk