

**STATE OF TEXAS** \*  
**COUNTY OF HENDERSON** \*  
**CITY OF GUN BARREL CITY** \*

The City Council of the City Gun Barrel City Council met in a workshop/special meeting at City Hall, located at 1716 West Main Street, Gun Barrel City, Texas, on Friday, June 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Eaton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Roll was called and a quorum was established. City Manager Gerry Boren was also in attendance.

[Council Member - Rodney Bevill: Absent](#)  
[Council Member - Melvyn Hayes: Absent](#)  
[Mayor - Paul Eaton: Present](#)  
[Council Member - Dennis Baade: Present](#)  
[Council Member - Curtis Webster: Present](#)  
[Council Member - Marty Goss: Present](#)

**ITEM # 1:** Discuss strategic planning for the City.

Finances – Staff was currently working on the 2013-2014 budget. They were also working on a five-year financial budget so we could see future expenditures and capital outlays. The costs of projected projects needed to be factored into the five-year plan of expenditures. Some of those project costs included:

Annexation - \$10,000 for a 5-year plan which would take 4 to 5 months.

Council Training – Open Meetings – 2 hour session with Bill Krueger for Council & EDC  
Ramtec – modular buildings – expanding police department, court, new Brawner Hall.

Salary Survey (Market Study) – Waters Consulting Group would charge \$13,500 for the study and set the job descriptions, build a new pay structure plan and place the positions within that structure. Another quote was received for \$18,000 from a company used by the City of Fairfield.

Time Capsules – They need to be dug up and moved to the new City Hall property. If the contents need to be put into different container, then we need to do so to protect the contents.

Fire Station - Lucille Parker will sell a one acre tract of land to the City for \$16,000 which is adjacent to the water tower on Legendary Lane.

Parks – The citizens are using our parks more often. Lights were turned on the second ball field last night. The track was being used and they were looking at adding on more stuff. Manpower and facilities needed to be looked at in our long-range parks plan. How are we going to grow our Parks Department?

Local Government Co-op (LGC) - Cities come together and merge some of the responsibilities,

i.e. dispatch. If they could get three cities together to merge dispatch, Gun Barrel City would save \$70,000, Tool would save \$30,000 and Seven Points would save \$70,000. The more cities involved, the bigger the savings. Henderson County was on board with this so this was something that would be pursued.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – This was something that they were working on with the County as well. Henderson County didn't have an MPO. This was federal road funds that were being funneled down to the County. These were the guys that decided where federal funds were being spent on roads. They needed 50,000 population to create this MPO.

Dumpster Screening – This was a cost to the businesses. Any new construction had to have a dumpster screen. Boren had an ordinance half way prepared but he didn't want to go any further with it until the Council came to a consensus on it.

Annexation – This plan would take 4 to 5 months. If they go with an ad valorem tax, then they needed to focus all energy on that. Boren wouldn't go with an ad valorem tax if the Council wasn't all on the same page or at least a majority of the Council.

Steve Webster, EDC President, commented that an ad valorem tax had to be justified. The justification would seem to be the Police Department, Fire Department, roads and lighting. Additional police officers were needed to reduce the drug problem, the fire department needs a new facility, the roads are in desperate need of repair and street lighting is needed. When we can justify the need for an ad valorem tax, then it could be presented to the voters which would probably get a half way decent reception. After we get a property tax, then we could talk about annexation. Do you want to annex raw land or annex residential subdivisions? For each annexed property there is a cost to provide city services. We need to balance that against with how much money that property is going to bring in on property tax. After a property tax is in place, then we can talk about bonding. As far as strategic planning, Webster said we had done a lot of planning before but we haven't followed through. This was a unique opportunity. In the past, the EDC had tried to go out front and look ahead. They had had some success but not enough. While the City was working on all the day-to-day, month-to-month, year-to-year things that needed to be done, maybe the EDC could take a step forward and look out front and from this provide some direction.

Baade said if additional police officers were needed then we might need additional equipment as well. With people, you have benefits in addition to salary. Part of strategy is planning. Boren said the Police Department was looking at a five-year plan and the need for a person to handle the evidence room. The Fire Department was looking at their service area and how to provide better response time, the cost of more fire hydrants and a water tanker. The Street Department was looking at the road age of our streets. Baade said they needed to determine what the typical life span of a road was and do the math. Roads could only be patched for so long. If they decide to go with a property tax, what would the assessment amount be? Do we want to annex raw land or

populated subdivisions? We need to know how much money would be generated through property tax versus the cost of annexing each tract of land or subdivision.

Marty Goss – We need to decide what we want Gun Barrel City to be – Mayberry or Plano. Webster replied that most people want a lake life but they want better roads. He felt the citizens wanted something between Mayberry and Plano.

Goss - The full City Council needs to be going in the same direction. Goss wanted to know the vision of the other Council members and what direction they wanted to go. His vision was to reach a level of what Mesquite was in the 1970s which was a little larger than a small city with excellent roads but not highway grade roads. They were pro-family community with safe neighborhoods. The police officers were in the neighborhoods controlling the drugs and they had a small-town atmosphere. Once we've maxed out, the City could increase the level of quality.

Curtis Webster – He was for a property tax. The City couldn't shoot for anything else without a property tax. We needed to define the property tax amount and what the exemptions would be. The justification for property tax was another fire station, roads and annexation. Another fire station was needed because the EDC would be tearing down Brawner Hall and we would be losing the facility for storing our fire trucks. People perceive roads as a major need. If we don't get a property tax passed and we have to maintain the status quo then we needed to look into outsourcing the roads. The police department and fire department were already answering calls outside the city limits so that's not perceived as a major need in regards to a property tax. In order to get a property tax, we need to sell it to the citizens by promoting better roads, a second fire station, the ability to get bonds and annexation.

Mayor Eaton – There was no sense in putting it on a ballot if we can't convince the citizens that it was needed.

Dennis Baade – He was for a property tax but the need had to be sold to the public. We have to talk about roads and lighting at major intersections because that's public safety.

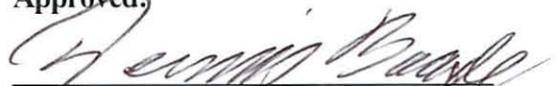
The Mayor felt another workshop was needed where the other Council members were involved. Boren said they needed to get some figures together to discuss the cost of controlling the drug problem, the cost of a second fire station and the cost of roads to include drainage per mile.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

**Attest:**

  
Christy Eckerman, City Secretary

**Approved:**

  
Dennis Baade, Mayor Pro-tem