TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

COMMERCE CITY

CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING (EXCERPT)

July 12, 2021

1	MAYOR HUSEMAN: Okay, thank you.
2	Live Spanish translation services are being provided
3	for tonight's Council meeting by telephone. Please
4	dial 720-386-9023 and use Code 104091 star for those
5	translation services. This time, I will call the
6	special meeting to order and ask the City Clerk to call
7	the roll.
8	ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Mr. Mayor, in the absence
9	of the City Clerk, I'll be calling the roll this
10	evening.
11	MAYOR HUSEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Attorney.
12	ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Okay. Mayor Huseman?
13	MAYOR HUSEMAN: Present.
14	ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Mayor Pro-Tem Frank?
15	MAYOR PRO-TEM FRANK: Present.
16	ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Councilmember Noble?
17	COUNCILMEMBER NOBLE: Present.
18	ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Councilmember Madera?
19	COUNCILMEMBER MADERA: Present.
20	ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Councilmember
21	Allen-Thomas?
22	COUNCILMEMBER ALAN-THOMAS: Present.
23	ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Councilmember Guardiola?

COUNCILMEMBER GUARDIOLA: Present.

ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Councilmember Grimes?

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- 1 COUNCILMEMBER GRIMES: Present.
- 2 ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Councilmember Hurst?
- 3 Councilmember Smith?
- 4 COUNCILMEMBER SMITH: Present.
- 5 ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Mayor, you have a quorum.
- 6 MAYOR HUSEMAN: Thank you. At this time, I'm
- 7 looking for a motion and a second to excuse those
- 8 Members not present. Mayor Pro-Tem?
- 9 MAYOR PRO-TEM FRANK: Motion to excuse those
- 10 Members not present.
- 11 MAYOR HUSEMAN: Councilmember Allen-Thomas?
- 12 COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN-THOMAS: Second the
- 13 motion.
- 14 MAYOR HUSEMAN: Have a motion and a second to
- 15 excuse those Members not present. Is there any
- 16 discussion? Seeing no request for a discussion, we will
- 17 do a voice vote. All those in favor, signify by saying
- 18 aye.
- 19 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.
- 20 MAYOR HUSEMAN: Any opposed say nay. Motion
- 21 carries unanimously. We have two items of business for
- 22 this special meeting.
- 23 The first is referral of an Administrative
- 24 Subdivision Application. Would like to invite Robert
- 25 Sheesley, City Attorney, to introduce the presentation.

- 1 ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: Thank you, Mayor Huseman
- 2 and Members of Council. There's no presentation this
- 3 evening. This item was brought up, I believe, as a
- 4 request to the Mayor for the special meeting.
- 5 There is a pending Final Plat Application
- 6 from Oakwood Homes for the Reunion Ridge, filing one
- 7 Amendment 4 that would typically be approved
- 8 administratively. There are some circumstances where
- 9 that can be referred to the Planning Commission and the
- 10 City Council.
- 11 One of those is the City Council requesting
- 12 that it be so referred. And that's the question before
- 13 you tonight. It is not a question of the merits of the
- 14 Application or any of the Subdivision Approval Criteria
- 15 that you would be weighing the Application against in
- 16 the future.
- 17 I want to caution everyone, because this
- 18 would be a quasi-judicial proceeding, to not express
- 19 opinions on the matter or show any form of bias. And
- 20 also, we need to make sure this doesn't turn into a
- 21 hearing on the merits of the case, itself.
- So, the question is really, should Counsel
- 23 refer this to Planning Commission and Council to be
- 24 decided, which would, I believe, put it to Planning
- 25 Commission in August, if notice can be achieved, and

- 1 then City Council probably the second meeting of August
- 2 is when that would be done. It would be a resolution
- 3 approval, so one reading.
- 4 So, Mr. Rogers could fill in with any
- 5 additional information on the Land Development Code
- 6 side of it. But your discussion tonight is simply
- 7 about that one item. And I really want to caution you
- 8 not to discuss the merits at all.
- 9 MAYOR HUSEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sheesley. As
- 10 Mr. Sheesley stated, this was my request to have this
- 11 brought up before the Council and referred to the
- 12 Planning Commission and to the City Council for public
- 13 hearings.
- 14 In the first quarter 2019, the Planning
- 15 Commission and the City Council heard Case
- $16 \quad Z-781-02-04-05-06-10-17-19$ which amended the existing
- 17 Reunion Planned Unit Development. At that time the
- 18 Amendment was passed, the tract in question was
- 19 designated as mixed use.
- There's nothing in this new Amendment that is
- 21 mixed use. The Amendment would only allow for
- 22 compressed homes with smaller-than-normal lot sizes for
- 23 a single-family home with the majority of them being
- less than 3,000 square feet.
- 25 In addition, in 2018, Oakwood decided, as a

- 1 result of 27J going to a four-day school week, that
- 2 they would pull out of the Capital Facility Fee
- 3 Foundation. And for every house that they have built
- 4 in the Reunion area since then, they have not
- 5 contributed towards that Foundation.
- 6 You may remember that back in last month, we
- 7 voted to approve pulling money out of the Capital
- 8 Facility Fee Foundation for the construction of the
- 9 Reunion Elementary School in Southlawn. That was about
- 10 \$4 million that we came out.
- 11 Since that decision, there's about \$1
- 12 million, \$965,565 roughly, that has not been paid into
- 13 the Capital Facility Fee Foundation that could have
- 14 gone towards construction of that school.
- 15 You may also remember the Superintendent of
- 16 27J stating that they only had the funds available
- 17 right now to build half the school, and it will be
- incumbent on voters to pass a bond in November in order
- 19 to fund the additional second half of that school to be
- 20 constructed.
- I think it's important that residents have an
- 22 opportunity to hear these cases in a public hearing and
- 23 provide their feedback on both of these issues.
- 24 Another thing that comes up, as you know, we are
- 25 continually being told that 104th Avenue is the best

- 1 corridor for economic development.
- 2 And so, here we have proposed development
- 3 that could have gone commercial that is going to be
- 4 residential. And that takes up that much more space off
- 5 104th Avenue, limiting our opportunities for economic
- 6 development opportunities.
- 7 Because of that, I make a motion that we
- 8 refer both this case to both the Planning Commission
- 9 and to the City Council for public hearings. Mayor
- 10 Pro-Tem?
- 11 MAYOR PRO-TEM FRANK: I'll second that.
- 12 MAYOR HUSEMAN: I have a motion and a second
- 13 to refer this Administrative Subdivision case to the
- 14 Planning Commission and to the City Council. Is there
- 15 any discussion? Councilmember Grimes?
- 16 COUNCILMEMBER GRIMES: Thank you, Mayor.
- 17 Mr. Sheesley, I don't know how much discussion we can
- 18 have around other financing mechanisms that are in
- 19 place outside of the CFFF tonight. Is that permissible
- 20 or no?
- 21 ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: I would recommend not
- 22 discussing the, the merits of the case, or having any
- 23 discussion around whether it should be referred or not,
- 24 which is really more of a timing issue and a
- 25 citizen-input issue. So, I, I would recommend against

- 1 having detailed discussion about those, those items.
- 2 COUNCILMEMBER GRIMES: Thank you. I would
- 3 ask that if we vote to move this forward to Planning
- 4 Commission that there's full transparency as far as
- 5 what financing mechanisms are in place, not just
- 6 through CFFF but also through Oakwood and their
- 7 Foundations.
- 8 And I think that if we're going to have this
- 9 discussion, we need to see all sides of it. And I
- 10 think that's fair for residents to see all of it.
- 11 But what I don't want to see is, you know, I
- 12 don't want to leave out the other pieces. And so, I'm
- 13 -- I can support moving the -- this forward, but would
- 14 ask that, in the presentation with the, the hearing,
- 15 that there's information included about the Oakwood
- 16 Foundations and how they contribute to the local
- 17 schools.
- 18 ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: So, if I may, Mayor and
- 19 Councilmember, there are discrete Subdivision Approval
- 20 Criteria. And they are the Applicant's burden to meet.
- 21 So, I expect the Applicant will come forward
- 22 with information about how each of those Criteria are
- 23 satisfied. And those will be the items that Council
- 24 will test the Application against.
- 25 COUNCILMEMBER GRIMES: Thank you for that.

- 1 Would 27J also be present and presenting at this
- 2 hearing?
- 3 ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: I -- they typically do
- 4 not attend any Development Application hearings. They
- 5 are referral entities. So, there will be information
- 6 in the record that Council receives, likely including
- 7 their comment on the Application.
- 8 COUNCILMEMBER GRIMES: For the sake of
- 9 hearing all sides equally, it seems prudent to invite
- 10 them to also participate. I'd welcome feedback from
- 11 Co-Councilmembers.
- 12 MAYOR HUSEMAN: I would think that they would
- 13 have the opportunity to speak during public comment
- 14 during a public hearing, as would anybody else within
- 15 the -- that has an interest in the subdivision case.
- 16 ATTORNEY SHEESLEY: That's correct, yes.
- 17 And I'm -- I, I anticipate referral agencies may be
- 18 contacted by the Applicant in this case, as well.
- 19 COUNCILMEMBER GRIMES: Thank you.
- 20 MAYOR HUSEMAN: Any other discussion? Seeing
- 21 no requests for a discussion, we will do a voice vote.
- 22 All those in favor signify by saying aye.
- 23 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.
- 24 MAYOR HUSEMAN: All those opposed, say nay.
- 25 COUNCILMEMBER: Nay.

1	MAYOR HUSEMAN: We are going to pass. It is	S
2	going to be 7-1.	
3	(End of requested excerpt.)	
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1	CERTIFICATE
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3	I, Victoria O'Connor, certified electronic
4	court transcriber, certify that the foregoing matter
5	is a complete and accurate transcript of the
6	proceedings based upon the recording, and that this
7	is as accurate a transcript of what happened at that
8	time and place as is possible, due to the conditions
9	of the recording and/or duplicating. Indiscernible,
10	indecipherable or inaudible statements are due to
11	microphones not working properly, excessive noises,
12	muffled voices or the parties not staying within
13	close proximity of their microphones.
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15	I further certify that I am neither counsel
16	for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties
17	to the action that pertains to this recording, and
18	further that I am not financially or otherwise
19	interested in the outcome of the action.
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23	Date: 07-15-2021 /s/Victoria O'Connor, CET
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