



# City of Pflugerville

## Minutes - Final City Council

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Tuesday, April 26, 2011

6:00 PM

100 East Main Street, Suite 500

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### Worksession

#### 1. Call to order

Mayor Jeff Coleman called the worksession to order at 6:05 p.m. Councilmembers Mike Marsh, Darelle White and Victor Gonzales were in attendance. Councilmember Wayne Cooper entered the worksession at 6:17 p.m. Councilmember Starlet Sattler was absent. City employees attending: Brandon Wade, City Manager; Floyd Akers, City Attorney; Lauri Gillam, Assistant City Manager; Trey Fletcher, Managing Director of Operations; Blake Overmyer, Building Official; Terri Waggoner, Public Information Officer; Karen Thompson, City Secretary.

#### 2. Discuss only

- A. 2011-0543 Discussion with RRE Austin Solar, LLC regarding matters related to the Pflugerville Solar Farm, plans for a solar incubator to be located on the property owned by the Pflugerville Community Development Corporation generally located at the intersection of SH 130 and Pecan Street and other economic development opportunities.

Daven Mehta of RRE provided information on the plans for a solar incubator with the Austin Technology Incubator (ATI). He stated that Mitch Jacobson is the main contact to bring this into the Austin region. He stated that he would like to bring up this incubator and create a solar city of companies and that they are hoping to have a 50-megawatt manufacturing company come. He stated hopes to provide more information within the next month. He stated that he will do whatever he can at RRE to bring in as many companies as possible. He answered questions of Council.

Mitch Jacobson of the Austin Technology Incubator (ATI) at the University of Texas stated that they are here because they assisted RRE in getting to Austin. He provided information on the efforts of ATI in economic development, incubating companies and creating jobs. He explained that ATI is trying to spread their model throughout the state and believes that Texas can be the clean energy state. He stated that they just launched incubators in San Antonio and El Paso. He explained that new products need an electrical grid to be used as a testing bed for their products and that is why a solar incubator is a good idea. He stated that it is unique and makes sense. He stated that they would like to be involved with it because they know how to build an incubator. He stated that if they can create an incubator here in Pflugerville, it will benefit all of Central Texas. He spoke on the benefits of a cluster of entrepreneurs. He spoke regarding the funding and services of ATI.

Mr. Akers described what it could look like in Pflugerville and described a company wanting to develop a 42,000 square foot office park, which he stated would be a perfect fit for this incubator site. He explained how the companies could share administrative staff and office equipment.

Mr. Marsh inquired of John Donovan, Pflugerville Community Development Corporation (PCDC) Boardmember, how this fits into his original concept on an incubator. Mr. Donovan stated that it fits hand in glove. He explained that ATI is recognized nationwide and what they have needed is someone that can help us put this together. He stated that the important part is the networking of people and expertise and bringing in business acumen and investors and ATI will be beneficial. He stated to use the land that PCDC has and to put the bricks and mortar together, that the incubator plays in beautifully with the solar farm. Mr. Marsh asked if there is anything the Council can do. Mr. Donovan stated that he thinks that the Council has done a wonderful job of encouraging it and thinks they are off and running. He stated that he would like to see this moving down the road as soon possible.

Mr. Gonzales stated that he sees this going even further and that he wonders if somewhere down the line, they will need someone on staff as the green city expert and key person. He stated that he is not sure if that would fall under the PCDC or the City's budget, but that it is too important to let go by the wayside. Mayor Coleman stated that when they were first briefed on an incubator it was too expensive. He stated that they should keep an eye on the cost, so that they are not surprised at the end. Mr. Akers recommended not spending any money in the beginning and utilizing current PCDC staff. He stated that he thinks there would be a minimal cost if they are subsidizing some rent. He stated if it gets going, they may want to get permanent staff, but he believes they have enough PCDC staff to provide assistance at this time, especially if they are on site with them. He stated that he does not see a large capital outlay, especially if they have someone else to come in and build some buildings. Mayor Coleman stated that that vision sounds good.

### 3. Adjourn

Mr. Gonzales made a motion to close the worksession. Mr. Marsh seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried. The worksession was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Thompson  
City Secretary

Approved as \_\_\_\_\_ on May 10, 2011.