

Minutes

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING WORK SESSION - APRIL 8, 2020, AT 4:30 P.M.**

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a Special Meeting Work Session on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 425 Tenth Street. The Honorable Mayor Pro Tempore Lindemann called the meeting to order.

**4. ROLL CALL.**

	<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
<b>MAYOR, ROBERT URIBE</b>		X (excused)
<b>MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, MITCH LINDEMANN</b>	X	
<b>COUNCILMEMBER, MARGARET MORALES</b>	X	
<b>COUNCILMEMBER, DONALD HUISH</b>	X	
<b>COUNCILMEMBER, RAY SHELTON</b>	X	
<b>COUNCILMEMBER, CESAR SOTO</b>	X	
<b>COUNCILMEMBER, JOSE GRIJALVA</b>	X	
<b>CITY MANAGER, JERENE WATSON</b>	X	
<b>CITY ATTORNEY, JUAN PABLO FLORES</b>	X	
<b>CITY TREASURER, LUIS PEDROZA</b>	X	
<b>ACTING CITY CLERK, ALMA ANDRADE</b>	X	

**5. PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN WRITING OR VERBALLY ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

No members of the public were on telephonically.

**6. DISCUSSION/DIRECTION on the DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT RUNWAY NEEDS and FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY.**

Luis Pedroza provided background information.

Mr. Pedroza commented that the City of Douglas was offered \$1.8M dollars grant, and that the city was very fortunate to receive the grant. Additionally, Mr. Pedroza stated that the city would have to match the grant with \$180,000 dollars.

Moreover, Mr. Pedroza added that \$1.8M dollars (plus possibly \$500,000 for phase II) was not enough for the full runway reconstruct, and that the city would need a phase II reconstruct of \$1.3M dollars for a total cost of \$3.1M dollars, therefore, commented that the city needed to phase the project as it could not reconstruct all at once.

Luis Pedroza commented that Kimley Horn performed a runway review which was finalized in December 2019, and reviewal was submitted to the state.

Luis Pedroza added that an additional \$1M dollar was needed at the airport in order to be addressed. Furthermore, Luis Pedroza commented that the city received fifty percent from helicopter operations in fuel sales.

Lastly, Luis Pedroza stated that council would recommend from the three options:

1. "Accept the \$1.8 million grant with 10% match and continue with the runway reconstruction grant with a total cost of \$4.4 million. The City would need to fund at best \$2.3 million and at worst up to \$2.8 million. Funding at this range is currently not foreseeable in the City's budget. Reconstruction of the runway provides an approximate 20-year useful life to the runway.

2. Accept the \$1.8 million grant with 10% match and restructure the project to a mill, compaction and overlay project. The City would not be eligible to receive the \$500,000 for next year and only have \$1.8 million from the grant. Engineer projects a cost of \$2.1 million for the project. The City needs to come up with \$480,000 match. Mill and overlay would extend the useful life of the runway to about 7-10 years.
3. **Staff Recommendation:** Do not accept the \$1.8 million grant and don't do improvements to the Airport runway. Keeping in mind that the shortage in funding can be better utilized to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic as well as addressing critical/essential infrastructure and capital needs for City services mentioned. By declining the funds, the City may apply at a later time for funding and since the Airport currently gets little traffic and there is another Airport option nearby (BDI) for local aircraft, operations would not be greatly affected. It must be said that ADOT funding is not guaranteed to be received in the future, and also not guaranteed is the receipt of the large grant amount necessary to rehabilitate the runway. There are options in repurposing the Airport to helicopter aircraft operations and/or other economic development initiatives such as the border wall contractors land lease."

Council Member Grijalva inquired about the projected needed funds from the airport project, and additionally asked if the city was going to receive any funds from Lifeline.

Luis Pedroza responded that the funding had not been allocated, and commented that the city was trying to pull funds from other sources to be able to fund the airport project. Furthermore, Luis Pedroza stated that the funding if available to the city could be utilized to projects that served the greater good.

Additionally, Luis Pedroza responded that Lifeline, the city submitted capital improvements plan to be funded by ADOT, not through city funds, which would cost \$22,000 match for Lifeline's stay. Moreover, Luis Pedroza added that Lifeline paid a monthly lease for the helicopter stationed at the airport as well as the trailer and rent was \$2,000 monthly.

Council Member Huish asked about \$300,000 match, however, the project was at \$2.1M dollars, what would be the match amount.

Luis Pedroza responded that \$1.8M dollar grant would be at \$180,000 match amount; \$1.8M dollar up to \$2.1M dollar, would be an additional \$275,000-dollar city match; and \$275,000 dollar plus \$180,000 dollar, would be at half million-dollar match.

Additionally, Luis Pedroza clarified that the amount was \$1.6M dollars, plus \$440,000 dollars, and that the city needed to match up to \$180,000 to equal the \$1.8M dollars.

As a final question, Council Member Huish asked if the airport had FAA status.

Luis Pedroza responded that the airport did not have the FAA status.

Lastly, Council Member Huish commented that if council decided not to take funds, that he strongly suggested to look at the museum to help maintain the valuable history of such, and additionally hoped not to lose the history.

Council Member Shelton inquired about not getting the grant and what were the options of obtaining one next year.

Luis Pedroza responded that the odds of turning down a grant could be slim, and that the odds of obtaining another grant in the next year would also be slim due to the fact that the city was rejecting the funds at the moment, and stated that ADOT would look at other airport needs and would spread the funds.

Additionally, Council Member Shelton commented that if the city would lose the airport than the use of BDI would come into place.

Council Member Morales inquired if Lifeline had been approached to fix the runway, and stated that her concern was when Lifeline would have to respond to calls and transport patients.

Luis Pedroza stated that heliport should not be affected, but it needed some rehabilitation, however it was still functional and could take in helicopters.

Council Member Grijalva commented that he would like to direct staff to be more involved at ADOT meetings in order to let them know the city's situation and reasons on not accepting the funds.

Mayor Pro Tempore Lindemann commented that the airport reached it obsolesces and should direct staff to select the suggested option.

Council Member Huish commented that the city had a grant writer and stated not to give up on the airport as stated it could be viable. Additionally, Council Member Huish stated that he would like to find some type of funding and added that the idea of letting ADOT know on the city's situation was a great way to let them know about the situation.

Mayor Pro Tempore Lindemann stated that the deadline was approaching and did not know if council could move forward with it. Additionally, Mayor Pro Tempore Lindemann commented that the grant writer could look at sources for possible funding.

Council Member Morales commented that the option should keep open and at the future have the airport open as well as the museum. Moreover, Council Member Morales added that she was unaware when the port of entry could come into fruition and stated that companies may want to come in and help.

Mayor Pro Tempore Lindemann commented that he would go with staff's recommendation of option three and keep options open.

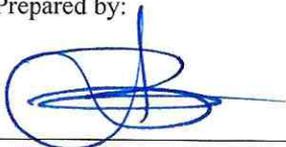
Juan Pablo Flores commented that the direction could gather from members that council heard. City cannot and will not be able to accept the grant at the time and keep option open for the near future for the grant writer to come up with options.

**Council direction: not to accept the ADOT grant at the moment, however, Council to keep open future funding options to include airport history/museum.**

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Council Member Huish, **SECOND** by Council Member Shelton to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Prepared by:



Alma Andrade, Acting City Clerk