



Odessa Civic Engagement Project

Dear Participant,

Civic Training is meant to be a pleasant, rewarding, learning experience. “Issues” or “Hot Topics” should not be discussed in this setting. Each leader will give you a background of themselves and their role within the City of Odessa. The following questions are provided as a guide for your participation. The leaders may or may not address these questions so it is up to you to ask.

Questions for the Mayor – Larry Melton

1. What is a Council Manager form of government?
2. How does the City collaborate with other sub-governments or special districts? ie. ECISD, Hospital, etc.
3. What is a Home Rule City?
4. What are referendums?
5. How can community help you and your office?

Questions for Councilman – Royce Bodiford

1. What methods are used for the public to have their views on particular issues brought to the attention of a meeting of a committee or of the Council?
2. Briefly discuss Odessa’s Comprehensive Plan?
3. What qualities make “good public policy”?
4. Are there limits to public policy?
5. How can community help you and your office?

Questions for Councilman – Dr. Jimmy Goates

1. How are city funds appropriated?
2. What are the components of the budget?
3. In the budget process for any given year, there may be more requests to fund programs or provide tax relief than there is money to go around. How are these handled?
4. How can citizens be involved in the budget process?
5. How can community help you and your office?

Questions for Councilman – Benjamin Velasquez

1. How do citizens participate in Council Meetings?
2. What are public hearings?
3. What is public forum?

4. How do citizens contact City Council outside of meetings?
5. Can a citizen request that an item be pulled from consent agenda?
6. How can community help you and your office?

Questions for Councilman – Bill Cleaver and Dean Combs

Councilman Cleaver and Combs had a schedule conflict. Larry Long, City Attorney, will address Taxes and Ordinances on Tuesday.