



City of Fredericksburg

CITY COUNCIL AND GILLESPIE COMMISSIONERS COURT JOINT BUDGET MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday August 8, 2024 ~ 9:00 am

John Wm. Klein Room

115 N Crockett

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624

City Council Members Present:

Mayor Jeryl Hoover

Mayor Pro-Tem Emily Kirchner

Councilmember Bobby Watson

Councilmember Tony Klein

Councilmember Randy Briley

County Commissioners Present:

County Judge Daniel Jones

Commissioner Charles Olfers

Commissioner Keith Kramer

Commissioner Dennis Neffendorf

Commissioner Don Weinheimer

City Staff Present:

Clinton Bailey, City Manager

Garret Bonn, Assistant City Manager

Leticia Vacek, City Secretary

Brian Vorauer, Chief of Police

Kris Kneese, Director of Public Works/Utilities

Anna Hudson, Director of Development Services

Krista Wareham, Director of Finance

Kelli Olfers, Director of Gillespie County Health

Sean Doerre, Public Information Officer

David Kellam, Finance Manager

Justin Calhoun, Emergency Management Coordinator

Reagan Rabke, Fire Marshal

David Jung, Director of EMS

Les Metzler, Director of Dispatch

Brandon Gold, Assistant Director IT

Josh Trieber, Sanitation Superintendent

Amy Burrier, Fire/EMS/Analytical

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoover called the Joint Meeting of the Fredericksburg City Council to order at 9:00 am on Thursday, August 8, 2024. He announced that a quorum was present. Judge Jones called the Joint Meeting of the Gillespie

Commissioners Court to order 9:00 am. He announced that a quorum of the County Commissioners was present.

FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 PROPOSED BUDGET - Clinton Bailey, City Manager

Mayor Hoover announced that today's session was very informal and turned it over to City Manager Bailey. Mr. Bailey made opening remarks being this was the second annual joint meeting which has proven to have been beneficial. He thanked everyone for the informal budget opportunity to meet and stated that his hope was to continue the discussions on other topics as well.

Economic Development Commission (EDC) Funding – Tim Lehmberg, EDC Director

Mr. Lehmberg reported that this year's budget for the EDC will see a 6% increase in expenses. Items noted as increasing were insurance, benefits, salaries, and projected expenses. He mentioned their commitment to continue to support the Chamber's Entrepreneur Development initiative which was budgeted last year and included this year.

Mr. Lehmberg noted that they were doing well regarding their level of funding and were not requesting an increase in their current allocation of \$132,000 each from the City and from the County. He mentioned that last year he requested a 10% increase in their level of funding. It was noted that the EDC did not pay rent at the location where they are housed (CVB). Additionally, it was stated that the City pays its allocation to the EDC from Enterprise Funds.

With regards to the workload, he stated that the economy has leveled out. He added that they set a record for inquiries received last year but it has slowed down to a more manageable level. He noted they are receiving inquiries and activity, but the trend is larger projects and less smaller ones throughout. He stated that he is efficient in how he operates to the point that he has not had to add an administrative assistant. He reported that they currently have one EDC Board seat vacant which is an appointment by the County. He asked if anyone had suggestions for their open board vacancy to submit their interest to him. Lastly, he reported that he was already working on next year's budget and will be able to remain at the same level of funding.

Gillespie County Health Services - Kelli Olfers, Director of Gillespie County Health Service

Mrs. Olfers reported that the budget for Health Services is based on the updated fee schedule proposed to go before the City Council for approval. Thereafter, the item will go before the County Commissioner's for their approval. She stated that the proposed fee schedule will result in \$18,000 revenue. She added that their maintenance and operation fund will decrease by \$15,000. Mrs. Wareham mentioned that several departments were able to reduce their previous year maintenance and operations line items to the eclipse. Mrs. Olfers also reported that they have added an expedited fee for those that want their permits the day of and increased the mobile permit fee. She noted that they educate the wineries of the required permit for mobile units.

Mrs. Olfers briefly discussed the succession plan for her office as she is preparing to retire. She added that the planned new position was set for September of 2025 but since that is so close to the start of the new fiscal year; the plan is to review it in six months. She added that a mid-year budget amendment can always be exercised if necessary. Mrs. Wareham added that \$35,000 was removed from the budget based on the decision to review the new position mid-year.

Emergency Management Services (EMS)/Fire Department Budgets – Reagan Rabke, Fire Marshal and Justin Calhoun, Emergency Management Coordinator

Mr. Justin Calhoun reported that he had an overall 10% reduction in the EMS Budget. He noted that fleet lease was down

as was small tools and equipment. He added that the debt on the generators has been paid off. Councilmember Briley asked of the FEMA funds. Mr. Calhoun replied that the State no longer sends that money down. Regarding the miscellaneous revenues, Mrs. Wareham stated it was interest that was earned on the reserves.

Mrs. Wareham stated that they were preparing a Fund Balance with all reserves listed within the city budget. She also mentioned that a 2.5% cost of living increase was built into all departments at this time.

Mr. Reagan Rabke reported on the number of calls with a higher call volume on Fridays and Saturdays. He also mentioned the call volume of the city vs county and the time it takes to respond. He referenced their Capital Improvements to the South Station roof which requires replacement. Also mentioned was the 3rd Fire Station with an approximate cost of \$10 million to build and its location. Mr. Rabke noted a new ladder truck to replace the current 23-year-old ladder that can only reach 95 feet while a new one will reach 110 feet. A discussion was held regarding the use of the current ladder truck and its repairs, making it a high maintenance cost of \$16,000 annually. He stated that the new ambulance approved in last year's budget will finally go into production in October 2024. Mr. Bailey stated that the planning of this capital equipment is crucial, and adjustments to the Capital Equipment Schedule due to production timelines. Transfers were briefly stated to have increased, but revenues are not reflected if the transfer patient has no insurance. Mr. Rabke also noted the replacement of the heart defibrillators budgeted at \$400,000 that includes a 4-year maintenance for them.

At this time, precincts and zones were discussed in relation to response. Mayor Hoover asked Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner to provide an update on the use of hotel occupancy tax for police and fire. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner stated that she has been working on an initiative for the city and would like to also include the County. She explained the two initiatives with one approach as potentially utilizing the 15% cap allowed by the State (15% can be used for Historic Preservation, and 15% can be used for the promotion of the Arts) and propose to utilize 15% for Emergency Services since more police are required to be hired and we have increased fire calls due to all our tourists. She noted the bill is being drafted and pre-filing starts in November. She indicated that she was hopeful as the Legislature goes into Session in January and if passed, the earliest it could become effective September 1st. The second initiative is a voluntary one whereby she has been working with some STR Owners to add a voluntary fee to the Friends of Fredericksburg Fund to enable half of the money to go to Police and the other half to Fire/EMS. With full participation, that approach could equate to \$1,000,000 per entity. Commissioner Weinheimer spoke to the reality that the volunteer firefighters are aging out and busy with the drunk people which is taking away from their core responsibility. Mayor Hoover added that the circumstances were driving our first responders to tend to a different need which was worrisome. Councilmember Watson noted that in the future, a need for another Fire Substation would be needed on 290E which would alleviate the pressure off the volunteer firefighters. Judge Jones stated these issues merit a larger discussion at a future joint meeting.

Law Enforcement Center (LEC)/Emergency Dispatch Center – Police Chief Brian Vorauer, and Les Metzler, Director of Dispatch

Chief Vorauer stated that he had a conversation with the Sheriff's Office on much needed office space. He reported that the cost to remodel the Council Chambers not including any AV would cost \$450,000 which is in the budget.

Mr. Metzler spoke of the transmission through dispatch and discussion ensued on the extent and clarification of receiving calls. Further discussion took place regarding the cost of replacing the current equipment with new equipment. Mr. Calhoun indicated the reasons why the new equipment was necessary.

Consider and discuss Outstanding Budget Items

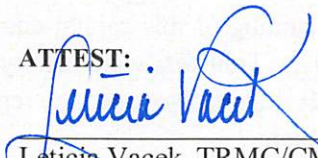
Mayor Hoover asked if there were any other items to consider. Mr. Bailey spoke to previous conversations of adding a Fire/EMS Substation and suggested a future joint meeting to discuss a location in detail.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner mentioned the Glockenspiel noting the location of its placement at MarktPlatz. She indicated that a “masterplan” for MarktPlatz would be beneficial for a precise area for the placement of the Glockenspiel. She added a masterplan would account for the current footprint as well as future development for a total buildout. Mayor Hoover stated that it is on the radar to discuss said item in more detail. Councilmember Klein mentioned that the Market Square Redevelopment Committee would be playing a part in its placement as well. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner thanked everyone for their comments indicating she wanted to ensure there is a plan for its placement.

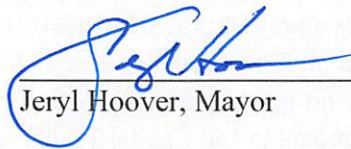
ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Hoover adjourned the Joint Meeting at 11:05 am.

ATTEST:



Leticia Vacek, TRMC/CMC/MMC
City Secretary



Jeryl Hoover, Mayor