



City of Fredericksburg

City Council Special Joint Meeting with Gillespie County
Commissioners Minutes

Thursday, August 7, 2025 ~ 9:00 AM

95 Frederick Road, Suite 100
Gillespie County Elections Office
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

City Members Present:

Jeryl Hoover, Mayor
Emily Kirchner, Mayor Pro-Tem
Bobby Watson, Councilmember
Tony Klein, Councilmember
Todd Eidson, Councilmember

County Commissioners Present:

Judge Daniel Jones
Charles Olfers, Commissioner Pct. 1
Keith Kramer, Commissioner Pct. 2
Chuck Jenschke, Commissioner Pct. 3
Don Weinheimer, Commissioner Pct. 4
Lindsey Brown, County Clerk

City Staff Present:

Clinton Bailey, City Manager
Garret Bonn, Assistant City Manager
Leticia Vacek, City Secretary
Krista Wareham, Director, Finance
Brian Vorauer, Police Chief
Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief
Frank Stead, Fire Department
Les Metzler, Dispatch
Kelli Olfers, Health Services
Sheriff Ayala

Also Present:

Tim Lehmberg, Economic Development Commission
Matt Seidenberger, School Board President
Taylor Ward, School Board Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeryl Hoover and County Judge Daniel Jones called the joint meeting to order.

2. OTHER ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES

- A. Receive opening comments from Daniel Jones, Gillespie County Judge, Jeryl Hoover, City of Fredericksburg Mayor, and Clinton Bailey, City Manager

Judge Jones and Mayor Hoover thanked everyone for coming out and thanked Jim Riley for the space today. Judge Jones stated that the reason for the meeting today is to discuss the joint budget items shared between the City and the County. Mayor Hoover stated there are nine funds to be discussed. Krista noted for the city, a 1.5% merit increase, 1% COLA, and the Step Plan of 2.5% for Police Officers is built in.

- B. Consider and discuss the following mutual Services and Funds:
- i. Economic Development Commission Funding
 - ii. Gillespie County Health Services
 - iii. Emergency Management Services
 - iv. Fire Department Services
 - v. County Rural Fire Services
 - vi. EMS Department Services
 - vii. Law Enforcement Center (LEC)
 - viii. Emergency Dispatch Center
 - ix. Animal Shelter

Rural Fire Services

Commissioner Weinheimer presented the item on the Rural Fire Department and VFD Calls. They are proposing to stay within last year's budget of \$235,000 plus maintenance of the tower for a total of \$258,000. Don added they might want to discuss the significant increase in calls. Chief Bizzell stated that the whole county is 50,000 that they are having to serve, which affects response times. Mayor Hoover asked how much of an increase should be considered. The Council and Commissioners discussed and noted that 10% would be a good start for a total of \$50,000 (\$25,000 each entity)

Law Enforcement Center (LEC)

It was reported that maintenance and operations portion of the budget is down roughly 5.6% at \$373,000 this year compared to \$390,000 last year. This is due to only one out of two AC units being replaced. The second one will need to be replaced this coming year. Don also noted the 9-1-1 Dispatch is under budget due to open positions in this department. They will continue to try and fill these positions. Les Metzler gave an update on the new radios which went live in July 2025, adding the contract was signed in December last year. It was reported that hardware and Radio Dispatch Monitor equipment which was 10-25 years old has been replaced. Commissioner Olfers added that the reason they are leaving the open positions in the budget is to keep the overtime down. Les noted their training program is 6-8 months. Councilmember Klein asked about an off-site back-up. Les said there are some mechanisms in place for backups.

Economic Development Commission Funding

Tim Lehmberg presented the EDC budget and reported that he adjusted the budget due to TMRS and Insurance. Total expenses are up 4.8% from last year's budget. The EDC Budget is simple and most of the funds go to pay his salary. He noted only a few items are projected to increase more than 5% including health insurance, retirement, payroll taxes, and some website expenses. He added this will be the third year that they will operate at the same level and added they do not need additional funds. He added that he has seven months of operating funds. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner informed Tim that the Governor's Office has an Economic Development Fund to provide cities with incentivized projects. Mayor Hoover confirmed the EDC budget request is for \$264,500.

Gillespie County Health Services

Kelli Olfers noted the revenue is an unknown this year due to the new legislative changes. SB 1008 - Statewide food standards are capping what can be charged for permits. We are well below that cap so our fee schedule should not be affected but the State is pushing to go to one permitting system. If this occurs, we may lose out on revenue due to this.

Regarding the second Bill, HB 2844 - Mobile Food Permitting, the state is taking that over issuing every mobile unit a permit effective July 1, 2026. Kelli added that they are pro-rating the fee to July 1st. She will keep the Council and Commissioners updated as she is attending a webinar. Mayor Hoover confirmed the health budget request of \$467,989 with revenue projection of \$317,000. Mayor Hoover extended his appreciation for the work that Kelli and her staff have done.

Emergency Management Services

Frank Stead reported that the call volume has increased 18%. He noted the four major events: Crabapple Fire, Reverse Fire, Brush Fire, and Flood. He also showed the incident type of calls stating the biggest is the EMS calls at 80%. He reported on the annual number of transfers which were reduced due to the Crabapple Fire and the Flood. The transfers were done by the hospital. It was stated that we can charge whatever amount, although most utilize Medicare/Medicaid, and we will only receive a set reimbursement amount. Issuance of citations for starting a fire was also discussed. Sheriff Ayala stated that they are issuing citations. Don said he will look into the ATMOS charge for gas leak(s).

Frank showed the average response times on a map and noted that it was total calls to the areas. He showed a chart of the Mutual Aid Calls for Fire and EMS and the total call volume.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner stated that the city will not be able to continue with 50/50 funding as city residents are paying twice. City Manager Bailey stated that he would like the opportunity to talk about the 5-year plan later in the year. Don shared that the Volunteer Departments are not equipped with EMTs, and we need to look at this now. He added that Stonewall's Budget is \$189,000. Mayor Hoover noted a need for an increase in rural departments and council was in

agreement to consider what is needed. Don added that a 20% increase sounded reasonable.

Fire Department Services

Lynn Bizzell reported that last year, the positions granted have been filled and should see the full effect next year as hires were staggered. He stated from the capital perspective he would like to add funds for capital items. The purchase of the Brush Truck is not complete but will encumber those funds for the following fiscal year. He added that they must replace all breathing apparatus and that it is a \$500,000 project in 2027. David Young stated that they have put in for an 80/20 grant and will not know until September if it is being funded.

Krista Wareham reported that the city is in the process of making changes to its personnel policy that will affect how the overtime for Fire, EMS, and Police is calculated. The upfront payment of capital for purchase of the Fire Truck was discussed and noted that inflation was not calculated in the upfront costs.

Judge Jones asked of the uncollectable amounts and what revenue offsets that amount. Krista stated that they are in the process of changing over to another collection firm.

Animal Shelter

Chief Vorauer reported the cost of running the shelter has increased. He added that it cost \$211,000 per year and did not include mandatory training, etc. He requested a funding increase from the County to offset the cost of the increase. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner asked where the calls originated. Chief Vorauer explained it is about 50% City and 50% County. After hour calls come in to a Deputy. Currently, the county is contributing \$15,000. The temporary holding facility was discussed by Chief Vorauer to deal with the influx of cats and dogs which was paid for by the special donation which will be coming to an end. Two Animal Control Officers work in the office and in the field. Another handles the incoming calls. Fees collected were \$14,000 last year while \$11,000 has been collected and that will be accounted for in the 50/50 shared expense. Total expenses are \$211,000 plus 30% benefits. Commissioner Olfers mentioned receiving help to address the Jail detainees.

- C. Consider and Discuss Outstanding FY2025-26 Budget Items.
- D. Discussion on the Texas Housing Foundation's Multi-Family proposed Development (Reserve at Vineyard Oaks) at Friendship Lane and South Eagle Street.

Mayor Hoover noted that two School Board Members (Taylor and Matt) were present. He wanted to get a pulse check with the Commissioners on the proposed Texas Housing Foundation multi-family property. He stated that if the city approves their agreement, it abates the county and school tax, not just the city abatement.

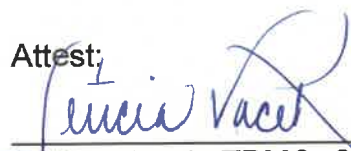
School Board Member Taylor addressed the Council and Commissioners. He mentioned the group that approached the school two years ago was the Texas Workforce Housing Foundation. A discussion ensued with regards to the cost of affordable housing and monthly cost of the apartments. The Judge stated he serves on the Alamo Council of Housing Finance Corporation and provided his input on the funds that are generated through the corporation which are dispersed into various projects such as community centers. He stated that he was hesitant due to the fact that monies are provided to other communities. Mr. Ward stated that overall, the school board had the same thoughts as the City and County. Mayor Pro-Tem Kirchner stated that there were many missing pieces but wanted to ensure that the school and county be included. She asked that letters of support be obtained from the various taxing entities. It was the consensus of the Council that the Texas Housing Foundation obtain said letters of support.

3. ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Mayor Hoover adjourned the Joint Meeting at 12:07 pm.


Jeryl Hoover, Mayor

Attest:


Leticia Vacek, TRMC, CMC, MMC
City Secretary