

CITY OF FAIRVIEW

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

July 19, 2018

Patti L Carroll, Mayor
Shannon L Crutcher, Vice Mayor
Derek K. Burks, Commissioner
Scott Lucas, Commissioner
Debby Rainey, Commissioner
Scott Collins, City Manager
Tom Daugherty, CFO
Tim Potter, City Attorney
Brandy Johnson, City Recorder

Present: Burks, Carroll (arrived late), Crutcher Lucas, Rainey
Others Present: Collins, Johnson, Potter, Hughes, Humphreys

1. **Call to order** by City Manager Collins at 6:05 p.m.

2. **Items of Discussion –**

- Court – In general terms, the court runs on \$180,000 operating costs with \$125,000 in revenues. That, coupled with \$36,000 in overtime costs has the court running at \$90,000 deficit. We are in the beginning stages of a complete review of court staffing and operations with Mrs. Ann (president of the municipal court clerk association) who agreed to perform this comprehensive overview of our court operations to help determine best practices moving forward. As a result of some recent issues, Dianne was demoted from court clerk to deputy court clerk (so we now have two). Gina typically assists the judge on court days and Dianne typically assists in the lobby as defendants leave. Two weeks ago I planned to flip those roles but the judge didn't want Dianne in the court room, ordered her to leave and when discussed with me alleged some complaints for previous behaviors. I sent this complaint information to the attorney and the police department met with the judge to review his complaints. As a result we have learned; 1) it appears that, if the city has concurrent general sessions jurisdiction, the court clerk must be elected, not appointed as an employee, and salary is governed by statute (\$66,000 for our current population) and; 2) we are not sure how our concurrent general sessions jurisdiction was established. In December 1993, the BOC adopted an ordinance for an elected judge but we cannot find where our jurisdiction was established. Attorney Potter has not had an opportunity to research as this just came up. If we do have general sessions jurisdiction we may have to have a special election, however, the judge may appoint the court clerk until the next election. Questions concerning the court's jurisdiction included; how can any action taken by the court be appropriate now that this is a question? And Should we postpone court? (charter says the BOC sets the schedule for court. Police Chief Humphreys notes that 2017 was a rebuilding year for the police department and the revenue of the court should grow and balance out financially as the department becomes more proactive and less reactive. The state has been collecting our court fees and auditing them for years, so how did they not know we didn't have concurrent general sessions jurisdiction. The finance department will now be in charge of making collections for the court in an effort to improve collections. It was asked if municipal courts typically operate at a deficit and the answer was no and Williamson County court makes a profit. A question of the historical numbers on court operations yielded no answer. Collins notes that we recognize there are issues and personnel changes coming to the court. There are further questions of how, who and under what authority does the court operate. If the court clerk is to be an elected position will health insurance benefits and retirement continue. The question of whether the circuit court clerk of Williamson county might be shared for the city's clerk as well. Chief Humphreys notes there are many values to holding our own general sessions court with mileage, overtime just being a couple. Ms. Ann noted each agency does hold their own court date at the county. Humphreys continues that we know there are a lot of broken parts and if we didn't have general

sessions he wouldn't recommend getting it, however, we are not ready to give it away and need to put some effort toward making needed repairs.

- Comprehensive plan website is up and we have had meetings of the steering committee, community partners and staff. A lot of what is currently being discussed today is almost exactly the same as the discussions of 20 years ago. Meetings with the Board will happen later in the process after the plan begins to take shape.
- The planning department is now up and running at the community services building and the trailer is scheduled to be removed tomorrow. Sharon will also take on the role of answering phones and emails for the public works department. Since the crew is typically not in the office this will assist them greatly. We met with CEC today and drafted a schedule of process changes as we begin to shift the engineering responsibilities.
- Chipper service has begun to operate again and we are in catch-up mode. We ran the last two Tuesdays and will run the next two Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Collins is running with the crew to assist and try out the new routes. We have essentially divided the city into four quarters and will test run those routes in August. After we determine the routes will work we will advertise this information to the citizens so they are aware of when their brush will be picked up. Any property annexed into the city should include the chipper service scheduling information as a part of the plan of services.
- Resurfacing – Horn Tavern Rd is the worst but we have several in similar condition and have discovered that many of our roads basically have no road base and they were accepted that way from the county many years ago. These roads pretty much need to be constructed almost from scratch and to do so we are looking at a budget figure of \$1 million per mile.

3. Adjournment at 6:58 p.m.

Brandy Johnson
City Recorder