

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF McCULLOCH

CITY OF BRADY

The City Council of the City of Brady, Texas met in a Joint Special Meeting with McCulloch County Commissioners Court, on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at the City of Brady Municipal Court Building located at 207 S. Elm Street, Brady, Texas with Mayor Tony Groves presiding. Council Members present were Missi Davis, Jeffrey Sutton, Rey Garza, Jim Griffin and Jane Huffman. City staff present were City Manager Kim Lenoir, Finance Director Lisa Remini, Fire Chief Brian Meroney, Firefighter/Paramedic Lynne White, City Secretary Tina Keys, Police Chief Steve Thomas, and Police Captain Mike Hudson. Also in attendance were County Judge Danny Neal, County Commissioners Jim Quinn, Jason Behrens, Gene Edmiston, and Brent Deeds, Sheriff John Dagen, County Judge-Elect Bill Spiller, Lynn Farris, Michele Derrick, Eddie Sales, Tony Cook, Taylor Hoffpauir, Virgil Webb, Justice of the Peace Maggie Sawyer, Angie Garner, Les Brooks, Jordan Tully, Dean Gibson, Davie Huie, Michael Jordan, Terry Davis, and James Blankenship.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Certification of a Quorum

County Judge Danny Neal called the County Commissioners meeting to order. Mayor Groves called the City Council meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Council quorum was certified. Judge Neal said a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to both flags were recited. Judge Neal asked for Citizen Comments. There were none.

2. Review and discuss current City Dispatch Services and plans for Law Enforcement Center Dispatch Services

Kim Lenoir went over the ERCOT requirements. Mayor Groves said the City is willing to provide dispatch services for City and County both at no cost. Commissioner Quinn asked what the urgency is at this time. Lenoir said we've been working on it for 8 years and this is the solution the City and ERCOT agreed on. Judge Neal said the bond was passed in 2016 and funded in 2017. Dispatch functions are typically done out of a jail. The new jail will be designed and equipped with dispatch. The topic has come up a number of times since February. There was a meeting about dispatch in June with several entities and budget meeting followed. Judge Neal would like to try to get a variance with ERCOT. Goal is to be functioning with dispatch to be operational at new Jail on October 1, 2018. The dispatch jobs will be available for those current dispatchers to apply. Council Member Jeffrey Sutton said the City is aware of the regulations for both the City and County. We need to work out a solution. It would hurt the taxpayer if we do not work out a solution. Council Member Huffman said we need to do what's best for the citizens and we need to save tax dollars wherever we can. If the City has to meet the ERCOT regulations, and doesn't have dispatch to meet those regulations, then it will cost the taxpayers. Judge Neal said the City needs to sell the substations; and he knows that the ERCOT regulations are being met at another county. It can be done. If ERCOT is willing to grant a variance, that would be a solution. The other solution would be talk to state representatives to get help. Judge Neal is available on August 20th to meet in Austin.

3. Review and discuss current City EMS Services and plans for County EMS Services.

City Manager Lenoir said the City currently provides Countywide EMS services but understands the County does not want to pay for that service any longer. Council Member Sutton asked if we have an Interlocal Agreement. Judge Neal said he doesn't believe so. Council Member Sutton would like to see an Interlocal Agreement. Proposed city budget for communications was \$320,000. But since the County is planning on taking the \$320,000 expense away from City, they would not supplement Fire and EMS \$251,000. The County paid \$251,000 in February of 2018 to include dispatch. But, the plan is to move dispatch back into the county jail to save the City that expense so the county wouldn't subsidize fire and EMS. Council Member Sutton asked if we could come up with a price per run figure. Judge Neal suggested stopping EMS services and offered to possibly look into contracting with some company to do EMS services since the City is losing money. Council Member Huffman asked Judge Neal if he said he is

proposing City will provide Fire and EMS and they will provide dispatch services. Dispatch showed \$320,000 for communications and we were asking for \$251,000 for Fire and EMS and dispatch. They agreed to that. They have agreed to take the \$320,000 department of dispatch off of the City's budget. City Manager Lenoir told the group that the City cannot pay for services in the County without an interlocal agreement. Since budget is not on the agenda, Commissioner Quinn suggested a budget workshop be held. Judge Neal said the supplement from the County has increased almost 100% year after year. Commissioner Deeds said there are probably not enough runs to warrant another entity coming in for EMS service. Eddie Sales asked why we have to have so many people when we lost 400 transfer calls. Michele Derrick said there was a meeting about 10 years ago to put fire and EMS together. Things changed. At one point we looked at a "fire / EMS district". We have to make changes. Lisa Remini countered that she is looking at different numbers. Danny Neal provided Lisa with what he was looking at the showed the \$800,000 loss, there was not a loss, EMS budget was adjusted in 2016 to reflect actual cost. Commissioner Quinn would like to make sure we work together and see if we can work on the ERCOT issue. Judge Neal asked how many calls are going to be for ERCOT and how many for Emergency Services. Huffman asked Neal to confirm, the County is saying the County will take Dispatch, the City will keep Fire and EMS and now we have to know what to do to move forward as far as figures go. Commissioner Quinn confirmed County is saying they will take on costs of dispatch and the City will take on costs for Fire and EMS and it is a \$70,000 net for the City. Commissioner Deeds asked if the City is paying for prisoners housed at jail. Judge Neal and Angie Garner said they can only charge for Class C Misdemeanors per the Criminal Code of Procedures. City Manager Lenoir again said after October 1st we cannot continue to respond to fire and EMS calls in the County without an Interlocal Agreement. Neal discussed Interlocal Agreements. Les Brooks said there is no Interlocal Agreement needed for volunteer fire departments. They are all 501(c)3 and operate independently. There was discussion about becoming an Emergency Services District and suggestion to find out more information. Judge Neal suggested we come up with an Interlocal agreement and leave everything as is except for county taking dispatch to jail, then we can look at it further. The County budgets now stands as it is and there is no more money. Judge Neal will look into outsourcing EMS services.

Meeting took a break at 2:15pm and resumed at 2:30pm.

4. Review and discuss current City Fire Services and plans for County Fire Services.

This item was inclusive with the discussion on EMS services.

5. Review and discuss next steps for Joint City-County GRW Steering Committee

Kim Lenoir said the GRW committee would like to meet with County and City Council again. They would like to call an election for a venue tax which is 2 cents on hotel/motel tax. Lenoir said the committee is suggesting a venue tax fund the project which would need to be approved by voters. Kim Lenoir suggested a joint meeting on August 7th at 2:00 p.m. to answer questions before calling an election. The GRW Joint Steering Committee would like an opportunity to discuss with Council and Commissioners.

6. Review and discuss City's future Activity (senior) Center and County's Sunset Senior Center and other senior services.

Kim Lenoir announced we do not have the funds for the project right now but are working with grant writers in hopes of getting a \$500,000 grant.

7. Discuss and plan future work session dates

August 20th to meet and travel to Austin on ERCOT issue and August 7th for a joint meeting with GRW Steering Committee.

8. Announcements

Mike Conway will be at Radio Station on August 1st. We could be there to talk with him.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Mayor and County Judge adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.



Mayor Anthony Groves

Attest: 

Tina Keys, City Secretary