

Minutes of the Independence City Commission's September 25, 2019 Special Meeting

The Independence City Commission met for a special meeting on September 25, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. in the Veterans Room at the Memorial Hall. Mayor Louis Ysusi, Commissioner Gary Hogsett and Commissioner Leonhard Caflisch were present. Others present included:

City Staff

Kelly Passauer, Assistant City Manager/Zoning Administrator
David Schwenker, City Clerk/City Treasurer
Jerry Harrison, Police Chief
Mike Passauer, Public Works Director
Lisa Helkenberg, Police Captain
Melissa Adey, Dispatch Supervisor
Terry Lybarger, Director of Utilities
Shawn Wallis, Fire/EMS Chief
Lacey Lies, Director of Finance
April Nutt, Director of Housing Authority
David Cowan, Director of Public Safety

Visitors

Sue Scovel
Andy Taylor
Larry McHugh
Mike Conway
Jon Risner
Rick Whitson
Ned Stichman
Dean Hayse
Becky Dye

I. SPECIAL SESSION AT 410 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

A. Call to Order

Mayor Ysusi called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

II. 9:00 AM -- ITEMS FOR COMMISSION ACTION

A. Consider submitting grant applications for the Independence Municipal Airport.

Mike Conway reviewed the grant applications. Mayor Ysusi reviewed the City's share of the grants being applied for.

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Hogsett the Commission approved to allow City Staff to resubmit grants for the Independence Municipal Airport Terminal Building Renovation; and to Re-Mark Runway 17/35.

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Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

- B. Consider authorizing staff to work with Montgomery County and cities within Montgomery County to consider developing an RFP to study consolidation of 911.

Chief Harrison noted that the study that he has provided is an overview of how complicated this process is and is asking direction from the Commissioners if he should move forward and get input from the other entities in the County.

Commissioner Hogsett asked if the consultant says that dispatch should be in Coffeyville or located in Independence, and are we ok with giving that up.

Chief Harrison noted that the study would lay out different options and the cost of each of those options. He also pointed out that Coffeyville has made a significant investment in their center and there is a portion of the study that considers assuming other assets and what the compensation is for that.

Commissioner Caflisch noted that the goal is to provide a better service.

Chief Harrison mentioned that one problem to think about if you lose local control, you find out that the dispatcher does not know about the local geography.

Commissioner Hogsett asked if the Coffeyville Commission have discussed participating in the study.

Chief Harrison stated that he has discussed this with the administrative staff and not the legislative body.

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Caflisch the Commission authorized staff to work with Montgomery County and cities within Montgomery County to consider developing an RFP to study consolidation of 911.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Caflisch the

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Commission recessed until 10:30 A.M. and will meet at 120 N. 6th for a site tour.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

III. 10:30 AM SITE TOUR AT 120 NORTH 6TH STREET

A. 1916 City Hall Site Tour.

Mayor Ysusi called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

Ian Pitts led the tour at 120 North 6th Street.

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Hogsett the Commission recessed until 11:30 A.M. and will meet at 410 N. Pennsylvania Avenue for programming of 1916 City Hall and Public Safety Facilities.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

IV. 11:30 AM DISCUSSION AT 410 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

A. Programming of 1916 City Hall and Public Safety Facilities.

Mayor Ysusi called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.

Andy Pitts discussed how he would like to go through each of the three program areas and how it relates to the overall cost of the building.

Commissioner Caflisch asked if additional items have been found after demolition that will need to be corrected.

Ian Pitts explained that an assessment will be made after demolition is finished.

Andy Pitts began with the City departments and recommended office space for those departments.

Commissioner Caflisch asked about the number of staff per department.

Andy Pitts gave the number of staff for each department based on the amount of FTE's per the budget and continued with the programming needs of the police department.

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Commissioner Caflisch asked how many staff areas would be needed.

Andy Pitts replied that would accommodate 17 staff workstations and continued with the programming needs of the fire department.

Commissioner Caflisch noted that the total square footage is based on individual pieces and when you start putting the pieces together there is potential for sharing spaces.

Andy Pitts noted that the original lobby area would need to be maintained to maximize the historic tax credits and they have found they can easily accommodate the City departments within City Hall and maintain those historic characteristics and features. The problem is applying other programming areas such as the police department then the square footage is greater than the footprint.

Mayor Ysusi asked how much the 1916 City Hall project is projected to be.

Andy Pitts noted that it is estimated at \$5.3 million which includes the current contracts.

Mayor Ysusi noted that the original project cost was estimated at \$16.1 million (which included 1916 City Hall and a new public safety building) and that now they have looked at a project estimated at \$13 million plus.

Andy Pitts replied that was correct.

Mayor Ysusi stated that the community will not accept that, and the Commissioners need to find a better solution.

Commissioner Caflisch asked Mr. Pitts about developing a preliminary plan.

Andy Pitts noted that wasn't a part of the original scope and there would need to be an amendment to the contract.

The Commissioners asked to have preliminary plans that include police and city administrative offices inside the 1916 City Hall and an addition to the current apparatus bay for Fire/EMS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mayor Ysusi moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hogsett seconded.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

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Louis Ysusi, Mayor

Leonhard Caflisch, Commissioner

Gary Hogsett, Commissioner

Attest:

City Clerk/Treasurer