

City of Crestview Hills

Safety Committee Minutes

January 9th, 2018

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Chairman Dorsey. Members present were Bill Rowekamp, Charlotte Volpenhein, Brian Baumgardner and J Zang. Councilmember Gronotte entered the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm. Dave Kramer was absent. Mayor Paul Meier and City Administrator Tim Williams also attended the meeting.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Mr. Williams noted that the Mayor had appointed a new member to the Committee, Stephanie Rowe, that will attend meetings following Council approval of the appointment next week.

Minutes from the August 30th, 2017 meeting were included in the agenda packet. Motion to approve the minutes by J Zang, seconded by Charlotte Volpenhein. All in favor of the motion.

Chairman Dorsey opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Following introductions, he opened the discussion with Old Business.

Renewal of Fire and Emergency Services Contract

City Administrator Tim Williams explained that the Committee had discussed the upcoming expiration of the fire and emergency contracts at the prior meeting in August. Since that time, staff has updated the request for proposals, incorporating comments from the Committee members. He also noted that we requested input from both of the current agencies that serve the City. The current agreements with Edgewood and Fort Mitchell expire in April.

Before digging into the elements in the RFP, Mr. Williams explained the current issues with the State pension system and potential changes in required contribution rates for cities, particularly for public safety (hazardous duty) employees. Based on the actions of the retirement board last year, if the General Assembly does not phase in the new contribution rates, cities costs will nearly double for hazardous duty employees. This creates a great deal of uncertainty with both cities in trying to determine their cost to provide the service for Crestview Hills. Mr. Williams had several conversations with both city administrators, and they would both be interested in extending the existing agreement for one year at the agreed upon price escalator in hopes the pension changes will be clearer before a 2019 renewal.

The Committee discussed this option at length. There were questions related to whether Edgewood could legally extend the existing agreement since they did not provide pricing for the two extension years. Mr. Williams indicated that he would check with City Attorney Stewart to get her input on whether this would be permissible. Since Ft. Mitchell had provided a four percent escalator for the first extension year, the Committee felt comfortable with the extension if Edgewood would also agree to the same increase.

A motion was made by Bill Rowekamp, and seconded by Brian Baumgardner to recommend extension of the agreements with Ft. Mitchell and Edgewood for one additional year, provided the extension was legal with Edgewood. All in favor of the motion.

Following discussion of an extension to the agreements, the Committee discussed several items in the existing RFP and made suggestions. Brian Baumgardner had questions regarding the insurance provisions and whether they were sufficiently robust for the services that were being provided. He stated he would look at those more closely and provide some input on possible revisions. Bill Rowekamp noted that the City should ask for more detail on fire apparatus, including when each piece of equipment is anticipated to be replaced. Finally, Mr. Williams reviewed in detail the reporting requirements. He stated that both cities had expressed some concerns about the level of detail required and felt as though those reporting requirements should be eased. After review and much discussion, the Committee felt comfortable with the information that was being required. (Mr. Dorsey noted that several of the items requested were actually tracked by the Kenton County Dispatch office and not the fire departments) Mr. Williams will communicate that back to both cities.

J Zang stated that he believes it would be a good idea to revisit our protection areas from the prior RFP. Mr. Williams noted that we might want to look at how Old Crestview Hills should be aligned in the protection zones.

After further discussion, the Committee instructed the City Administrator to move forward with the extension, but if we are unable to extend for one year, then the Committee would like to revise the RFP based on Committee input and advertise the RFP within the next couple of weeks. A motion was made by Sharon Gronotte, and seconded by Bill Rowekamp on this recommendation. All in favor of the motion.

Mr. Williams will update the Committee in the next week via email on the renewal option.

A motion was made by J Zang to adjourn, seconded by Sharon Gronotte. All in favor of the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.