

# City of Crestview Hills

## Safety Committee Minutes

### March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chairman Dorsey. Members present were Councilmembers Dave Kramer, Joe Roesel and Sharon Gronotte, Bill Rowekamp, Stephanie Rowe, Brian Baumgardner and J Zang. Charlotte Volpenhein was absent. Mayor Paul Meier and City Administrator Tim Williams also attended the meeting.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes from the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were not available. Motion to defer approval of the minutes by Dave Kramer, seconded by J Zang. All in favor of the motion to defer minute approval until the next meeting.

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 reviewed the proposals for Fire and EMS services that were received on February 28<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the City of Fort Mitchell only proposed on zones B and C, while Edgewood only proposed on zone A. The most significant aspect of the proposals was the cost increase. Fort Mitchell increased the price on the current year's agreement by 110%, while Edgewood increased cost of services by 200%. The costs for Fire and EMS would go from approximately \$215,000 to \$457,500 with the new Interlocal Agreements.

The Committee had lengthy discussions on the proposals. There were a number of questions regarding the new costs and how those costs per capita related to their own costs. Mayor Meier reviewed an analysis he conducted of the pricing on a per capita bases. It appears that the Fort Mitchell pricing is in-line with costs to serve their incorporated area, while the Edgewood pricing is well above their per capita costs based on the price proposal. The Committee expressed concern about this disparity in costs for services. The Mayor also reviewed a quick analysis of run distribution for Edgewood to Crestview Hills Zone A and how that related to their Fire budget. It appeared that Crestview Hills was 22% of fire runs and 33% of EMS runs.

Councilmember Kramer stated that the City should meet with representatives of both cities and try to negotiate the costs. The Committee discussed this at length. Mr. Kramer also mentioned that the Committee should request EMS billing and collection information from both cities so we understand how that fits into the overall revenue structure for Crestview Hills service areas. Several Committee members expressed surprise that the City of Erlanger did not propose on a portion of the City.

Several of the Committee members stated that creating a new Fire Department was not a financially wise move at this time. However, the Committee members all agreed that alternates should be explored in the next few years with other providers or in supporting joint fire agencies/authorities to better spread fixed costs over larger population areas and eliminating duplication of services.

Bill Rowekamp expressed concerns about staffing at the Fort Mitchell Fire Department. He noted that there were fewer volunteers to fill in the gaps in coverage, and that the department might have a hard time meeting coverage standards. He noted that Edgewood Fire Department is better staffed with experienced volunteers to supplement the full and part-time staff. The Committee noted this and requested staff to monitor staffing issues over the next year.

Following further discussion, a motion was made by J. Zang, and seconded by Bill Rowekamp to accept both proposals for Fire and EMS services, with the caveat that the Committee would like to review EMS billing and collections for the past two years. Mr. Roesel noted that the Council would need to approve the Interlocal Agreements at the regular March meeting. With no further questions, the motion to approve the proposals was approved unanimously.

Mayor Meier asked Chairman Dorsey about the status of the new radio system for the Police Authority. The new radios should be available in the first quarter of 2019 and the various public safety/public works departments in the three counties are currently evaluating the systems in preparation for final pricing. Kenton County is managing the bidding process.

Being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Dave Kramer to adjourn, seconded by Joe Roesel. All in favor of the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.