



ORIGINAL

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Special Meeting May 31, 2023**

A joint special meeting between the Pendleton County Fiscal Court and the City of Falmouth was held on Wednesday May 31, 2023 in the Pendleton County Fiscal Court Chambers with the following present for sole discussion of Fire Protection between City and County:

County Fiscal Court Members answering roll call:

Judge David Fields	Rick Mineer	Josh Plummer	Alan Whaley
Darrin Gregg	Attorney Stacy Sanning	Clerk Marianne Roseberry	

The following City Council Members answering roll call:

Amy Hurst	Present	Joyce Carson	Absent
Sabrina Hazen	Present	Bob Pettit	Present
Darryl Ammerman	Present	Luke Price	Present

Also Present: Mayor Sebastian Ernst, Attorney Brandon Voelker, Clerk Ramona Williams

After pledge and invocation, Judge Fields officially called the Fiscal Court special meeting to order as did Mayor Ernst called the City Special Meeting to order.

Judge Fields began by summarizing the recent meetings that had been held to the point of the meeting tonight. There had been a motion and votes by the City Council to request \$225,000 from the County for fire protection; an increase of the current \$120,000. A letter was sent to Fiscal Court of said request, a response from Judge Fields stating Fiscal Court voted no to request. A special meeting between both sides was called for tonight. Judge Fields stated based on numbers he had received from the CAD reports, it was agreed more runs were to the County than City and they had no problem paying their share, but Fiscal Court was not in agreement the \$225,000 was a fair/equitable amount.

Mayor Ernst quoted statistics that 71% of all fire runs were made to the county; 43% were for lift assists and landing zone calls. He felt a flat rate was more conducive that would include compensation for these types of calls and based on the city fire department budget of \$282,000 city fire runs were \$60,000.

Discussion then went among those present fielding questions regarding the dollar amount being requested. It was agreed and a consensus the county had been contributing, it was now a matter of the dollar amount to be contributed. Along with that the current agreement expires June 30 as is. According to the agreement, the city would cease response into the county.

Attorney Brandon Voelker explained an Attorney General Opinion states the cities cannot go out of their jurisdiction without an inter local agreement being in place.

Bob Pettit then stated that regardless of any agreement in place, he would not agree to stopping our firemen from going anywhere to respond to an emergency or fire. They would respond.

At this juncture:

MOTION:

Fiscal Court member Rick Mineer made a motion to offer \$150,000 to the City for fire protection to include lift assist and landing zone set ups, to be made annually, per month basis for a period of one year. Darrin Gregg seconded. Roll call vote: Josh Plummer-yes; Alan Whaley-yes; Rick Mineer-yes; and Darrin Gregg yes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Before a council motion or vote; Mayor Ernst reminded Council they had already voted and agreed upon the \$225,000 request.

MOTION:

City Councilman Darryl Ammerman made a motion to accept the county proposal as offered; seconded by Amy Hurst.

Discussion was then opened by Attorney Brandon Voelker stating that the best option would be for the Council to amend the current agreement, with payment arrangement as discussed. With that, Darryl Ammerman withdrew his motion and restated.

MOTION:

City Councilman Darryl Ammerman made a motion to amend and extend the current agreement with payment of \$150,000 by county to be paid annually in monthly payments, for one year, during which time the County would pursue option to take over management of the Falmouth Fire Department. Seconded by Amy Hurst; Roll Call Vote: Amy Hurst-yes; Bob Pettit-yes; Darryl Ammerman-yes; Luke Price-yes; and Sabrina Hazen-yes. Motion carried 5-0-0.

MOTION:

Fiscal Court member Rick Mineer made a motion; seconded by Alan Whaley to accept city amended contract to include landing zone and lift assist for a one year term with the understanding the Fiscal Court would pursue option to take over management of the Falmouth Fire Department. Roll Call vote: Josh Plummer-yes; Alan Whaley-yes; Rick Mineer-yes; Darrin Gregg-yes.

MOTION:

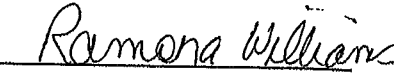
Rick Mineer made a motion to adjourn the Special meeting of the Fiscal Court, seconded by Josh Plummer. Fiscal Court vote: Josh Plummer-yes; Alan Whaley-yes; Darrin Gregg-yes; Rick Mineer-yes.

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MOTION:

City Councilman Luke Price made a motion to adjourn the special called meeting of the City seconded by Darryl Ammerman. Amy Hurst-yes; Bob Pettit-yes; Darryl Ammerman-yes; Luke Price-yes; and Sabrina Hazen-yes. Motion carried 5-0-0.


Sebastian Ernst, Mayor


Attest: City Clerk