

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TASK FORCE
CITY OF TOWN & COUNTRY, MO
July 14, 2020
Via Zoom Videoconference
8:00 AM

Given the current public health crisis, various emergency meeting declarations, and in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 610.020, RSMo., this Fire and EMS Task Force meeting was held via Zoom videoconference and streamed live to YouTube. Public comments on agenda items were solicited via email. Real-time public viewing of the meeting was made available via the City's website at www.town-and-country.org.

Members: Alderman Ryan Mortland (Co-Chairman), Alderman Sue Allen (Co-Chairman), Mayor Jon Dalton, Don Sanders, George Tarlas, Todd Soloman, Amber Walsh

OTHERS PRESENT:

City Administrator Bob Shelton, Communications and Administrative Assistant Morgan Kuepfert.

1. Call to Order

City Administrator Bob Shelton called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and the roll as noted above was taken. There was a quorum.

2. Introductions and charge by Mayor Dalton

Mayor Dalton gave a brief introduction to the Task Force members. He stated the City has been contracting with West County Fire and EMS for many years and have had extraordinary service. Mayor Dalton noted that there is currently no tax levied to the residents for this service. A brief overview of the City's financial position was explained, and Mayor Dalton noted that despite revenue declines due to COVID-19, the City is in a solid position due to the healthy reserves and thoughtful planning throughout the years.

Mayor Dalton expressed his gratitude to the Task Force Members and Aldermen Allen and Mortland and stated he is very pleased with the participation, support and leadership of the Task Force. Each Task Force Member then gave a short introduction of themselves.

3. General overview of history, current agreements and previous options considered

Alderman Mortland stated the purpose of this Task Force is to identify the key criteria to come to an informed decision that will benefit the City and the residents. He stated the end goal is a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen. Mayor Dalton explained that this is a very important and significant decision to make due to the investments involved and wishes

to collaborate and not consolidate. He noted negotiations will be tough but thorough and believes this Task Force will provide great results.

City Administrator Bob Shelton prepared a short presentation that gave an overview of the current contract, including cost and timeline, history of past considerations, and options to consider moving forward. Mr. Shelton explained that a past Task Force utilized a consultant to create an analysis comparing other options and a summary of that analysis will be presented at the next meeting. He stated that the Task Force should look at any changes, internal or external, that resulted from the previous decisions regarding Fire and EMS services. Mayor Dalton noted that annexation was one of the options and that he is not in favor, but believes nothing is off the table at this point and it is an option that should be explored.

4. Discussion

Discussion was held among the Task Force relating to response times, annexation, taxes, and other general items to consider when making the decision.

5. Set future meeting dates and objectives

The next two meetings will be held on July 28 and August 21. Additional data and summaries will be presented.

6. Adjourn

On a motion by Alderman Mortland, seconded by Mr. Sanders, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.