

## TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - February 2, 2021

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The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 held a joint special meeting with the City Council of Pflugerville on Friday, February 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 Headquarters located at 201 East Pecan Street, Pflugerville, Texas, for the following purposes.

Commissioners who attended via video conference:

Mike Bessner                      Mike Howe                      Robert Turner                      April Griffin                      Rico Reyes

City Councilmembers who attended via video conference:

Victor Gonzales                      Doug Weiss                      Omar Pena                      David Rogers                      Cesar Ruiz  
  
Rudy Metayer                      Mike Heath

The following persons were also in attendance via video conference:

Ron Moellenberg                      Nick Perkins                      John Carlton                      Jessica Frazier                      Victor Gonzalez  
  
Josh Stubblefield                      Trevor Stokes                      Sereniah Breland

1. THE MEETING *was called to order by Commissioner Bessner at 6:00 p.m. and the minutes were recorded by mechanical means.* The meeting was held pursuant to a formal Notice of Meeting, which had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act at the Travis County Clerk's Office and in the offices of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 Headquarters.
2. Public Comment:
  - *A letter was submitted by Pflugerville resident Karen Cunningham*
  - *Josh Stubblefield – PPFA Local 4137 President*
  - *Trevor Stokes – PPFA Local 4137 Representative*
  - *Jim McDonald – Pflugerville Resident?*

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

3. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE DISTRICT RELATED TO FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL PROJECTIONS, REVIEWING PROJECTED GROWTH IN REVENUE, POPULATION, SERVICE DEMAND, AND IMPACT ON RESPONSE TIMES AND PROVISION OF SERVICE, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *Commissioner Griffin gave the City officials a recap of the four options the District identified and praised the District for the quality service they provide at a reasonable price. Commissioner Griffin asked the City how the citizens would receive quality service at the right price for advanced life support and transport services if the City Council does not consent to the vote on an overlay. Commissioner Griffin also reminded the City of the option for them to pay the District directly and forego the creation of an overlay district. A City Councilmember responded their concern was the financial projections that the District has published. Commissioner Griffin asked the City Council what other options they were considering. A Councilmember replied one option is to dissolve ESD No. 2 entirely and turn control over to the*

City. The City questioned why Austin Travis County EMS (ATCEMS) is not providing service here to which Commissioner Howe told them that is a question for Austin Travis County EMS. Commissioner Howe went on to show ESD No. 2's boundaries in comparison to the boundaries for the City of Pflugerville, Pflugerville extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and Austin ETJ. The City expressed their concern about the financial projections and questioned the urgency of the election. President Bessner responded the District is limited to a 10 cent cap; the City responded Amazon and other businesses should help. Assistant Chief Perkins spoke on the topic of Austin Travis County EMS and said they currently dispatch the District and ATCEMS ambulances to serve as a backup when ESD No.2's are not available, which happened 160 times in 2020. Commissioner Reyes spoke about how the District was left to provide EMS services and ESD No. 2 looked into options before deciding to start our own. Commissioner Reyes mentioned the ESD has invited City representatives to financial planning meetings in the past. Commissioner Reyes stated the District is not in this for money but to provide the best service possible. Commissioner Reyes stated the best option is to allow the people to vote. Attorney Carlton explained the law on taxing entities and the timeline. Commissioner Reyes stated ATCEMS labor costs are substantially more than ESD No. 2's. It costs ATCEMS nearly twice the amount of ESD No. 2 to staff an ambulance. Commissioner Howe responded to the City about finances explaining that it's not about the District running out of money but having to dip into financial reserves. Commissioner Howe talked about the tax rates and how to recover funds from Travis County. Commissioner Howe talked about the 3.5% increase cap on taxes. Commissioner Howe responded to the City's remarks about using the County to provide ambulance services. Commissioner Reyes explained the District is trying to do the best they can for all their jurisdiction which is larger than the City of Pflugerville. The City made remarks about carrying the ESD No. 2's debt on the City's books. Commissioner Howe touched on going to the legislature to raise the 10 cent cap. Attorney Carlton explained the future effects of Senate Bill 2 stating ESD No. 2 will experience a declining tax rate and also explained that regardless of what Senate Bill 2 states, ESD No. 2 can never go above a 10 cent tax rate. Attorney Carlton also explained previous attempts to raise the tax rate, debt authority, the timeline for elections, and legal codes. The City asked for the District's participation in a study they've commissioned. Commissioner Griffin asked them for the timeline for the study, the City responded 16 weeks, sometime in late May. PPFA Local 4137 President Josh Stubblefield reminded the City of the petition that was filed and requires a response by February 8. President Stubblefield reiterated that if the City of Pflugerville opts out of the proposed overlay district, they will be carved out of the ESD and will have to provide EMS services themselves. PPFA Local 4137 representative Trevor Stokes expressed his thoughts about remarks made in the meeting and his disapproval of the City reaching out to the cities of Austin and Hutto to suppress their voters. City Mayor Gonzales stated ultimately the City of Pflugerville will have their own Fire Department and it will happen through mutual agreement and wants to grow together. PPFA Local 4137 representative Trevor Stokes asked for a commitment from the Mayor and council to stop meddling in the elections of other cities and their ETJ's. President Bessner closed by stating ESD No. 2 has done studies on cost and has the numbers to show ESD No. 2 is more cost effective than ATCEMS. At the last council meeting the City they asked Travis County to audit ESD No. 2. Travis County reviews the independent audit of ESD No. 2. annually as required by law. President Bessner explained that ESD No. 2 earned an ISO Class 1 rating. Out of 39,000 departments nationwide only 393 have accomplished this.

4. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE DISTRICT'S STATEMENT OF SERVICES IN LIGHT OF THE PROPOSED OVERLAY DISTRICT AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *no action was taken on this item.*

President Bessner adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

The next special Board meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rob Humphrey, Board Recorder