

TRAVIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 13, 2024

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 held a meeting on Thursday June 13, 2024, 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: Rico Reyes April Griffin Randy Reese

The following persons were also in attendance:

AJ Stacer	John Carlton	Amanda Bartlett	Nick Perkins	Jessica Frazier
Terrence Wade	Nathan Claxton	Ryan Brower	Nathan Beaty	Alex Padden
Travis Patrick	Tory Thompson	Barndon Barkley	Ava Roberts	David Vazquez
Steven Blocker	Dan Berger	David Rogers		

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER. *The meeting was called to order by Board President Commissioner Reyes 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, in the offices of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 Headquarters, and on the District’s website at <https://www.pflugervillefire.org/board-of-commissioners-agenda/>.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: *No public comment.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3. CELEBRATE SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PERSONNEL FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.

- Alex Padden promotion to Apparatus Specialist;
- Jessica Odu, EMT achieved high test scores on their National Registry Exam and graduates from the Pflugerville ISD Emergency Medical Technician program;
- Ava Roberts, EMT achieved high test scores on their National Registry Exam and graduates from the Pflugerville ISD Emergency Medical Technician program;

Commissioner Reyes recognized Mr. Padden, Ms. Odu and Ms. Roberts for their exceptional performance.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. APPROVE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM THE MAY 9, 2024 MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 20, 2024;

Commissioner Griffin moved and Commissioner Reese seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVE A RESOLUTION FOR THE DISPOSITION OF SALVAGE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY ITEMS;

Commissioner Griffin moved and Commissioner Reese seconded to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

- ### 6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES, INCLUDING;
- A. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CITY COUNCIL OF PFLUGERVILLE, PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE;
 - B. DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE
 - C. TRAVIS COUNTY ESD COMMISSIONERS' COUNCIL REPORT;

Commissioner Reyes noted he attended the City of Pflugerville's recent Council Meeting. No update was provided for the Public Relation Committee or the Travis County ESD Commissioners' Council Report

7. RECEIVE REPORT FROM TREASURER AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION, INCLUDING:

- A. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS AND INVOICES;
- B. APPROVAL OR FINANCIAL REPORT, INCLUDING PROCESSING OF PAYROLL;
- C. RECEIVE MONTHLY SALES TAX ANALYSIS REPORT;
- D. APPROVAL OF PURCHASES FOR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S APPROVED BUDGET;

Ms. Frazier provided an overview of the Treasurer's Report, including checks and invoices from the last month, the sales tax analysis report (up 2%), and payroll and fund balances.

Commissioner Griffin moved and Commissioner Reese seconded to approve the financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

8. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF REGARDING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS RELATED TO FIRE SUPPRESSION AND EMS, RESPONSE TIMES, CALL VOLUME, PERSONNEL STAFFING AND TRAINING, MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:
 - AN UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT'S EMS BILLING POLICY;
 - AN UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT'S PLANNING DEVELOPMENT;
 - AND CONSIDER TAKING ANY RELATED ACTION;

Chief Perkins discussed the City's renewal of its contract with Allegiance and expressed his disappointment at the City's lack of discussion regarding the termination clause in the proposed contract with the District. Chief Perkins also discussed the impact of the City of Pflugerville's contract with Allegiance on ambulances available in the area. Commissioner Reyes also briefly discussed his disappointment.

Chief Perkins then discussed the ongoing 9-1-1 call processing delays and issues and advised that he expects the matter to be resolved on July 17th. Chief Perkins credited AJ Stacer's work in identifying and resolving the technology challenges.

Chief Perkins then advised that he has been informed that the Austin EMS Employees Association is working on a petition for the creation of an overlay district in Travis County and outside of existing overlay districts. Chief Perkins commented that he understands the petition is structured such that Austin EMS would get the funding, not Travis County. Commissioners Court has been informed of the petition, as well, and the County will be hiring a consultant to study EMS in Travis County, which has not been done since 2011.

Chief Perkins also provided an update as to the work being done in coordination with County staff on a grant from the EPA to harden homes for wildfire season. The grant application has moved to the next stage and oral interviews have been scheduled. If approved, the grant would be awarded through the EPA, Travis County would manage the funds, Meals on Wheels would be the contractor, and the District would provide data, outreach, and communication with the community. Chief Perkins conveyed that he was cautiously optimistic about the possibility of the grant.

9. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF OF COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION REGARDING STATUS OF FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE ACTION AS NECESSARY, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES AND OWNERS:
 - A. VAHID KHAMISI, 15505 N. IH-35, PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS, 78660 ("CLUB MIAMI");
 - B. GREG DANIELS, 15008 N. IH-35, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78728 ("FLEISCHER DRIVE");
 - C. GLENN WILLIAMS, 6511 BRATTON LANE, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78728 ("PERFECT 10");
 - D. BRIANA STRINGER, 20818 MARTIN LANE, PFLUGERVILLE TEXAS 78660 ("DOGJOY");
 - E. TERRANCE S. FISHER, 112 E. HOWARD LANE, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78753 ("HANNAH'S PLACE");

Assistant Chief Berger provided an overview of the fire code violations and enforcement activities. Sub-items A-C are being heard by JP Court, Precinct 2 and the pre-trial hearings are scheduled to be heard on June 24th. Assistant Chief Berger stated that no movement has occurred on sub-item D, and Ms. Stringer has until the end of fall to address the violations. Sub-item E is a residential care situation and is the highest risk and of the greatest

concern. Efforts are being made to move quickly and file a Petition with the District Court. Commissioner Griffin asked how long this has been going on. Assistant Chief Berger stated that they have known about this for about 2 months, but were allowing time for the owner to submit the permits. The owner believes that the fire code does not apply to her.

10. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING STATION #7 AND TRAINING FIELD CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS, AND DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING AGREEMENT WITH CORE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES OF TEXAS, INC., INCLUDING ANY CHANGE ORDERS OR REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT;

Chief Perkins shared that the project is moving forward and he is satisfied at this time.

11. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION MATTERS, CONTRACT ISSUES, AND LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION;

- CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-23-000748; DAVID ROGERS, JENNIFER PAKENHAM, AND KRISTI POWELL, PLAINTIFFS V. TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 BOARD, DEFENDANT;

Mr. Carlton advised that he would like to discuss this matter in executive session.

12. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE PFLUGERVILLE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION, LOCAL NO. 4137 AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION;

The firefighter's association representative, Chris Wolf, discussed the free CPR program available to the community. He also discussed efforts to defund the fire department in favor of directing funds toward the City of Pflugerville. He encouraged involvement and invited people to join the Pflugerville Firefighter Auxiliary.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER UPDATES TO THE RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Chief Perkins provided a brief overview of the retiree health benefits plan and discussed the addition of spouses to this plan and the associated costs.

Commissioner Griffin moved and Commissioner Reese seconded to approve the amendment as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

14. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE HEALTHCARE ACCOUNT TRUST DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Jessica Frazier discussed the healthcare account trust and the necessary amendment to name an additional trustee. Ms. Frazier proposed naming Commissioner Mike Howe as that additional trustee.

Commissioner Reese moved and Commissioner Griffin seconded to approve the amendment and name Mike Howe as the co-trustee. The motion passed unanimously.

15. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTING THE TAX AND BUDGET PLANNING CALENDAR FOR 2024 AND AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR TAX PROCESS PUBLICATIONS:

Mr. Carlton discussed the tax planning calendars and noted the time-sensitive 2-week period in August, depending on the tax rate they choose. He discussed Aug 1, Aug 8, and the 13, and perhaps the 19th. The Board can adopt a calendar after the planning conference.

No action taken.

16. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE DISTRICT RELATED TO FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL PROJECTIONS, INCLUDING:

- REVIEW OF PROJECTED GROWTH IN REVENUE, POPULATION, SERVICE DEMAND, AND IMPACT ON RESPONSE TIMES AND PROVISION OF SERVICE;
- PRESENTING REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS AND RELATIONS,
- AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

No report.

17. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A DISPATCH INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Chief Perkins shared this is for the approval of the updated agreement.

Commissioner Reese moved and Commissioner Griffin seconded to approve the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

18. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, COST ALLOCATION, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

No report.

Commissioner Reyes then returned to Item 11 for discussion in closed session.

At this time, the Board went into Executive Session to receive legal advice from counsel pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071. Executive Session convened at 6:48 p.m. and ended at 8:36 p.m., at which point the regular meeting was re-convened.

No action was taken during executive session.

Commissioner Griffin moved that (1) Chief and District counsel to seek an attorney who specializes in election matters; (2) to find a third party to validate the petition's signatures; and (3) to find a consultant to assist the district in an education campaign, should an election be called. Commissioner Reese seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reyes then returned to Item 6 for additional discussion.

Commissioner Reyes provided additional comments with respect to the City of Pflugerville's recent City Council meeting and directing his comments to the community, the firefighters and to Pflugerville City Councilmember Jim McDonald. Commissioner Reyes discussed Councilmember McDonald's behavior and comments at the City Council meeting, describing it as a disingenuous emotional outburst with hostile posturing. Commissioner Reyes advised that the District was invited by the City to submit a proposal for an Interlocal Agreement and the District did so, as requested. Commissioner Reyes stated that he had met with Councilmember McDonald prior to the City Council meeting and was informed at that time that the District's proposal had been carefully reviewed by Councilmember McDonald, personally, as well as by the Assistant City Manager and Emergency Services Director, and by two of the City's lawyers. Commissioners Reyes noted that negotiations were held between the District and the City on the District's proposed agreement, with all matters raised by the City being addressed by the District. Commissioner Reyes further recalled that Councilmember McDonald described the purpose for meeting prior to the City Council meeting, was to ensure there were no "surprises" and to encourage the agreement of the other Councilmembers; however, that statement by Councilmember McDonald was disingenuous. Commissioner Reyes continued, stating that in meetings that occurred even earlier he had conveyed to Councilmember McDonald that he would be candid, honest and truthful with him and that Councilmember McDonald stated that we would do the same. Commissioner Reyes countered that Councilmember McDonald was not those things, nor did he do those things.

Commissioner Reyes then directed his comments to the public, the firefighters and to staff, advising that the County Commissioners, though he does not speak for them, made it clear that the County had communicated to the City its willingness to assist with the costs associated with the City contracting with the District. The County's only request was that the City provide them with the dollar amount needed, which the City did not provide nor did the City make that offer known to the public. Instead, the City publicly mischaracterized the negotiation efforts with the District. Commissioner Reyes stated that the District offered the City the price it wanted and can clearly provide the quality of service that is warranted by the residents of the City and the District and the public, in general.

Commissioner Reyes then returned to directing his comments to the City and Councilmember McDonald, specifically, stating that he would not abide the Councilmember resorting to personal attacks on the District's leadership and staff. Commissioner Reyes expressed his gratitude to Councilmembers Ceasar Ruiz and Rudy Metayer and to Mayor Victor Gonzales. Commissioner Reyes concluded by stating the Councilmember McDonald chose to proceed with Allegiance, despite a death occurring on their watch. Commissioner Reyes expressed his hopes that another tragedy would not occur, but stated that Councilmember McDonald will have to live with that decision.

Board President Rico Reyes adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.
The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sequina Allen
Board Recorder