

CITY OF HENDERSON – RECORD BOOK

Record of Minutes of A Called Joint City/Henderson Fiscal Court/Cooperative Study Team Work Session
on March 21, 2023

A Special Called Joint Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Henderson, Kentucky, with Henderson County Fiscal Court and the City/County Cooperative Study Team was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., prevailing time, in the third floor Assembly Room, Municipal Center, 222 First Street, Henderson, Kentucky

There were present Mayor Pro Tem Vowels presiding:

PRESENT:

Commissioner Robert N. Pruitt
Commissioner Rodney Thomas
Commissioner Nicholas E. Whitt

ABSENT:

Mayor Bradley S. Staton

CITY STAFF MEMBERS included: William L. “Buzzy” Newman, Jr., City Manager; Dawn Kelsey, City Attorney; Maree Collins, City Clerk; Heath Cox, Assistant City Manager; Holli Blanford, Public Information Officer; Robert Gunter, Finance Director; Connie Galloway, Human Resources Director; Jordan Webb, Emergency Communications Director; Travis Owens, Assistant IT Director; Bill Raleigh, IT Support Specialist; and Marty Wilson, Police Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Schneider, County Judge Executive; Magistrate Puttman; Magistrate Southard; Magistrate Starks; Kurt Wiesen, Fiscal Court Clerk; Steve Gold, County Attorney; Brenda Duncan Rider, County Treasurer; Bruce Farmer, County Coroner; Brian Bishop, City/County Planning Commission Executive Director; Dorin Luck, City/County Airport Board Chair; Kendra Strawn, Humane Society of Henderson County Board Chair; Kenny Garrett, Henderson Emergency Management Agency Director; Rev. Charles Johnson, Henderson-Henderson County Human Rights Commission Executive Director; John Coomes, Henderson-Henderson County Human Rights Commission Treasurer; Nicole Fields, WARM Center; Dale Sights, WARM Center; and News 14.

THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

**Presentations and Review of Jointly Funded
Outside Agency Funding Requests**

- I. Brian Bishop, City/County Planning Commission Executive Director, presented the request for proposed FY24 funding which includes an increase due to a brief overlap of personnel for succession training and slight increases in pay for the Assistant Director, Secretary Senior, and GIS Coordinator positions to offset additional duties with the retirement of the Executive Assistant. Duties of the new Executive Assistant position will be geared more toward financial duties while other current duties will be split between remaining positions.
 - ✓ Other expenses include: having a vehicle painted instead of replacement, increase in insurance fees due to the overlap of filled positions, and the payout of accrued vacation time of the retiree.
- II. Dorin Luck, Henderson City/County Airport Board Chair, reported that Allen Bennett, Airport Manager, was out of town and unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Luck explained the proposed budget includes a three percent across the board increase of expenses and the match for two very large grants to fund two very large airport runway projects. The first being the mandatory reconstruction (moving from one end of the runway to the other) of 500 feet of runway and the second a 500-foot extension to the runway. Both of these grants would require state and local match.
 - ✓ County Judge Executive Schneider reported that the County had previously set aside Coal Severance funds for at least a portion of their match for these projects.

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- III. Kendra Strawn, Humane Society of Henderson County Board Chair, reported that they were requesting an increase of \$2,000.00 from each the City and County due to increases in pet food and vaccines. The requested increased funds would also allow an increase in pay for the director.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD relating to: providing health insurance stipend for employees to improve recruitment and retention; the slight pay increase for the director is also to offset health insurance coverage; continued complaints regarding pit bulls repeatedly running loose and terrorizing people in their own yards – Ms. Strawn indicated that they are aware of the situations and have been working with the neighbors to try to catch the dogs out of their own yards. She indicated that by the time they get there, the dogs are back in their own homes; what if anything, the City and County can do to help with the situation-any ordinance change that might be of assistance-Ms. Strawn explained that they are unable to go on private property without being invited, and these owners are not going to allow them on the property; how the court system works in these cases; and how to address the root of the problem, keeping more puppies from being given away/sold.

- IV. Kenny Garrett, Henderson Emergency Management Agency Director, reviewed the revised proposed budget request which includes state funding. He explained that he was requesting a three percent across the board increase which comes to a \$2,000.00 increase from last year's budget request. He further explained that some line items will be over-budget, however they will reduce other expenses to cover those line items.
- V. Reverend Charles Johnson, Henderson-Henderson County Human Rights Commission Executive Director, reported that they were requesting a total \$2,984.00 increase from the previous year, which is approximately three percent.
- ✓ Reverend Johnson indicated that they have a good working group on the Commission and have conducted several events with more planned for the future. The number of complaints is down, however, calls are on the rise.
 - ✓ John Coomes, Treasurer, reported that the pension costs doubled due to the Directors contract allowing for the expense that would be provided for insurance to go to his pension fund.
- VI. Jordan Webb, Emergency Communications Director, reported that her budget was not ready for review due to the City's processes – however, she did report on the phone system replacement plan under state contract pricing. The grant application has been submitted. Grant awardees will be notified in the fall.
- Robert Gunter, City Finance Director, reported that the City's share \$418,000.00 plus maintenance for a total of \$553,000.00 and the County has offered to pay for the entire system up front and allow the City to pay this back over time of four or five years. Mr. Gunter indicated that the City invoices the County for several expenses each month and if those expenses were not collected, but applied toward this expense, the City could possibly have the debt to the County reimbursed within 12 to 18 months.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD relating to: previous discussion on proposed increases to the 9-1-1 fee that is applied to water bills; how both the City and County must agree on the same fee; how the timing is just not good to be increasing fees to our residents; how this is a great opportunity to provide the upgraded equipment at this time-but is not a long-term solution; staffing levels and what was being proposed to recruit/retain employees; if shift differential pay had had any effect on retention/recruitment-yes; and that the repayment period could be extended to up to five years to assist in the City's budgeting process.

Mayor Pro Tem Vowels thanked the County for the generous offer, and it was determined that legal staff would formalize an agreement for presentation at a future meeting.

- VII. Dale Sights, WARM Center President & CEO, and Nicole Fields, WARM Center Chief Operating Officer, gave a brief history of the WARM Center and their variety of programming.
- ✓ Mr. Sights presented an opportunity for the City and County to assist in starting/funding of a new education program aimed at high school/middle school kids.

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The program needs funding for a staff member, they have the physical resources, facility and supervisory staff. The City and County have both received Opioid Settlement funds that could be used for this purpose.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD relating to: the funding commitment for the program; how the program would need to meet specific criteria in order to qualify for the Opioid Settlement funds; how the Warm Center already has the facility, the office and supervisory staff support-they just need funding in order to provide a salary for the right person to operate the program; how education in the schools or for school age children may need to begin before high school/middle school in order to be effective; that there are other programs that the City and/or County have some of the Opioid Settlement funds earmarked for; that maybe funding be provided for a trial basis of two years and then re-evaluate; that there may be separate Opioid Settlement funds available from the state in the near future to support this or similar programs that the Warm Center may be able to apply for future years; and that time is of the essence to get this program started. Fentanyl use is attacking our youth with 22 overdoses and seven deaths in Henderson County since January 1st of this year.

Mr. Sights and Ms. Fields were asked to forward more specifics and deliverables of the program so that City/County staff could draft an MOU that would meet the Opioid Settlement requirements.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

MEETING ADJOURN:

MOTION by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Whitt to adjourn.

The vote was called. On roll call, the vote stood:

Commissioner Vowels ----- Aye:	Commissioner Pruitt --- Aye:
Commissioner Thomas ----- Aye:	Commissioner Whitt --- Aye:
Mayor Staton ----- Absent:	

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Mayor Pro Tem Vowels declared the work session adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Maree Collins, CKMC
City Clerk.

Bradley S. Staton, Mayor
April 11, 2023