



**CITY COUNCIL and ECTOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT MINUTES  
CITY OF ODESSA, TEXAS**

**December 10, 2019**

On December 10, 2019, a joint meeting of the Odessa City Council and Ector County Commissioners was held at 1:06 p.m., at Ector County Administration Annex, County Commissioners Courtroom, Suite 120, 1010 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Odessa, Texas.

City Council present: Mayor David R. Turner; Council members: Malcolm Hamilton, District One; Dewey Bryant, District Two; Detra White, District Three; Mari Willis, District Five and Peggy Dean, At Large.

City Council absent: Tom Sprawls, District Four.

Ector County Commissioners present: Ector County Judge Debi Hays; Ector County Commissioners: Eddy Shelton, Precinct One; Greg Simmons, Precinct Two; Dale Childers, Precinct Three; and Armando Rodriguez, Precinct Four.

Others present: Michael Marrero, City Manager; Natasha Brooks, City Attorney; Phillip Urrutia, Assistant City Manager; Cindy Muncy, Interim Assistant City Manager; Celia Senoret, Deputy City Secretary; others, and members of the news media.

Judge Hays reconvened the Ector County Commissioners to order.

A quorum being present, Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and the following proceedings were held:

Council member Bryant gave the invocation.

The City Council members and County Commissioners introduced themselves.

**Discuss the City of Odessa and Ector County relevant issues of interlocal agreements.** Mayor Turner had a reference of all the interlocal agreements. He started with the jail agreement and the Commissioners reviewed it to see how they would like to structure. Mayor Turner stated that the City was paying \$402,413 a year for service to the County. He added the Animal Control had three agreements and wanted to find the best way to proceed forward. Council member Dean stated that most of these agreements were 20 years old. There were concerns on the way things were done now versus the way done 20 years ago which was not the same.

Council member Dean addressed the issue of the fire services and EMS. An issue was if Fire fighters were responding within two minutes but they were responding as quickly as possible. She added that 30% of the calls were in the County; therefore, the City was doing more than what the agreement stated. Council member Dean believed the fire agreement needed to be reviewed. Assistant Fire Chief Saul Ortega clarified that fire services and EMS were separate agreements. They respond primary to EMS, which was the majority of the calls. There were areas in the county called "Red Zones" which they respond as they would in the city. Voluntary agencies were completely different. They do not have as many people volunteer through out the day as they did years ago. These circumstances caused to

change how they respond. Assistant Fire Chief Rodd Huber stated voluntary response was about 20% to 25%. Commissioner Childers stated the County wanted to find a solution. He suggested a fire station in West Odessa. Council member Dean suggested to identify the issues and take to a Commissioner and a Council member to work together with Fire Department to find suggestions. Mayor Turner suggested Council member White and Commissioner Childers. Judge Hays stated that this would be a good start, but consider the cost factor that the people in the county were not indigent, and they too have insurance. In addition, any billing mechanism that were used for the people in the city, to collect fees, either through insurance companies, Medicaid, Medicare, the fees had to be considered as well.

Mayor Turner addressed the jail agreement and what would be best way to move forward. Council member Dean questioned how the County concluded the \$402,413.00 twenty years ago. Sheriff Mike Griffis stated population varies by the hour, but the cost right now was \$42,000.00 per day to take care of the inmates. There was average of 800 inmates a day and about \$60.00 a day per inmate. Council member Dean had some concerns about the cost.

Judge Hays reviewed the interlocal agreement list and designated a Commissioner, County staff, Council member and City staff to the agreements.

Motion was made by Judge Hays and seconded by Commissioner Simmons to go into recess. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Turner reconvened the meeting.

**County Assistance District.** Ms. Brooks presented a power point about the County Assistance District. She stated that it was not the City intent to sue the County. The City was excited when the County was able to pass the County Assistance District. The issue with the County Assistance District was the setup and the boundaries. It limited the City from future grow and that was the major concern. Based on the language given to the Comptroller's office, the City would not be able to collect any sales and use tax from those areas voluntarily annexed into the City either now or in the future. The City wanted to tax the areas that were voluntary annexed in the ETJ. Ms. Brooks stated the statue required notice to the Economic Development Corporation. The City allowed companies to set up in the County. The Economic Development Corporation provided funds to the county for business and incentives. Chapter 387 of the Local Government Code does not authorize the County to exclude territory of the City of Odessa from the boundaries of the District. The County was required to notify the Odessa Development Corporation Board of Directors of its intent to establish a county assistance district. The territory of the City of Odessa, under Chapter 387 included all territory of the City of Odessa that was the subject to the exercise of its authority to impose a municipal sales tax in the area of the proposed assistance district. Ms. Brooks concluded that the City was not interested in litigation against the County. The City did not want to see this situation tied up in costly and time-consuming litigation for years. The City was not interested in taking any of the funds that the County had collected. The City would like, if a company or anybody wanted to voluntarily annex to the City of Odessa, to be able to provide the services and the ability to tax that particular area.

Commissioner Simmons stated that City was aware of the election and the ballot, and cannot complain about not getting notice, and the language should be relevant. Commissioner Shelton was concerned about the time frame if the City was just asking for the area that City had annex prior to the election. Judge Hays explained the day that the

voters went to the polls and voted, there was the boundaries that the voters voted to create an Assistance District Tax.

Council member Bryant stated there had been lack of communication on their mutual interest and concerns to provide better services. Commissioner Shelton agreed that they need to communicate, but did not want to wait to communicate until something happened. They need to communicate daily. In addition, this was a great opportunity to open the lines of communication and work with the mind set on what was best for the community.

Judge Hays invited the Mayor and City Manager to meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues and concerns inside city and the county.

There was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Celia Senoret  
Deputy City Secretary

David R. Turner  
Mayor