

Court convened for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room of the City Building. County Judge/Executive Brad Schneider presiding. (Meeting was a joint meeting of Henderson City Commission and Fiscal Court)

### Call To Order

County Judge/Executive Brad Schneider called the meeting to order.

### Roll Call

Magistrate Berry	Absent
Magistrate Tompkins	Absent
Magistrate Starks	Present
Magistrate Puttman	Present
Magistrate Southard	Present

### Budget Request - Planning Commission – Brian Bishop – Executive Director

Brian Bishop presented the Planning Commission's budget request for next year. They are asking for a 8.62% increase. He explained that the largest increase was for personnel. They do have an employee retiring and will need an overlap for training. The health insurance will increase next year with a current employee now beginning to use the insurance. They have also asked for a budget increase for security at the office and money to repaint a vehicle next year instead of replacing it. Judge Schneider asked about salary increases. Brian said that some of the retiring employee's duties would be split among the present employees. He is budgeting for a \$5,000 raise for Jennifer and Heather, and a \$2,500 increase for Chris. He has also included a 5% COLA increase for his position. Judge Schneider pointed out that he wanted to make sure that any COLA pay increases for the Planning Commission staff would be comparable to what the rest of the county employees receive.

### Budget Request - City-County Airport – Dorin Luck – Board Chairman

Dorin presented the Airport budget to the group. The board is asking for a 3% increase over last year. He then talked about the Airport planned project list and the matching fund amounts the city & county will have to provide. This will all depend on when the projects are actually in progress. Currently for this year the amount is \$32,300. Currently the runway extension is slated for next year and the match will be \$168,696 and the runway reconstruction will be approximately \$400K but probably won't be done until 2025. Judge Schneider asked if a piece of property the county helped purchase would count towards the match. Tonya Clevidence who handles the board's finances confirmed that it would.

### Budget Request – Animal Control/Humane Society – Kendra Strawn – President

Kendra presented the Animal Control budget to the group. They are asking for a \$4000 increase. They want to increase the Executive Directors pay and there has also been a large increase in the cost of vaccines. They are going to raise their reclaim fees. The Animal Control Officers are now receiving health benefits but purchasing their own and then being reimbursed through their pay. Commissioner Pruitt asked about the problem with pit bulls running loose on the East End neighborhoods and also problems with Animal Control catching a dog or citing an owner in the Braxton Park area. The other issue he would like corrected is that Animal Control contact complainants and let them know whether the dog was caught or if they need to be aware that the animal is still running loose. Kendra said that she will look at changing the current policy and update the complainant. She also replied that she is aware of the problems and Animal Control is trying their best. Dogs have been picked up on the East End but they end up either being returned to their owners or the owners just get more. The Braxton Park issue is trying to catch up with the owner to cite her and to catch the dog when it is not on the owner's property. After further discussion, it was mentioned that the city ordinances might need to be looked at to stiffer penalties.

### Budget Request – Emergency Management – Kenny Garrett - Director

Kenny's budget request was for a 2% increase over last year. This would include a raise for him and his staff. The cost of maintaining the emergency sirens has increased and part of that will be absorbed by other categories.

# HENDERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT—MINUTE & ORDER BOOK

Records of Minutes of Special Called Meeting 03/21 2023

**Budget Request – Henderson Human Rights Commission – Dr. Charles Johnson – Director, John Coomes – Treasurer.**

Dr Johnson is asking for an 8% increase over last year. The majority of the increase is for the retirement increase and a COLA increase in his salary. The actual number of complaints this year has decreased.

**911 Operations Center Upgrades – Jordan Webb - Operations Director**

Jordan reported that they are currently down several communication officers and are currently hiring. Jordan had presented the timeline and the cost of a new CAD system at the last city county meeting. The total cost of the system will be \$635,269 with an ongoing annual cost of \$83,934. Judge Schneider has proposed that the county provide all the funding and then given credit by the city in the form of the landfill fees and the 911 operating fees. The purpose of this would be to delay having to raise the fees on the water bills. Buzzy Newman asked if Dawn Kelsey could go ahead and work with Steve Gold to formalize an agreement.

**WARM Community Outreach Program – Dale Sights – President, Nicole Fields – Chief Operating Officer**

Commissioner Vowels stated that both the city and county will be getting funds from the Opioid Litigation Settlement and the WARM has come up with an idea and request to use some of the funds.

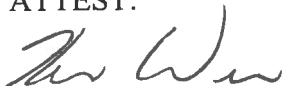
Dale Sights told the group the UCC church granted the WARM the property of the church and it has become the Recovery Resource Club of Henderson. All the WARM classes are held there along with AA & NA meetings. Nicole has developed a drug & alcohol education program that is currently being presented in the high school and middle schools. There is a great need for family education especially with the Fentanyl problem the public is facing. They would like to expand the programs out into the community. WARM has the facilities and the staff to help run the program but will need funds to provide the salary for a director. The director would be supervised by Nicole. The idea of this program is to take a proactive approach instead of a reactive approach to the drug & alcohol problems facing our community. Their request is for the city & county to provide funding of \$60K for the director's salary. Discussion ensued on the amount of the settlements the city & county will be receiving and also the guidelines concerning the use of the funds. All members agreed upon the importance of this program and the urgency. City Manager Buzzy Newman asked if the city and county could make the commitment and each set aside \$30K each for the next 2 years to get this program running. City Attorney Dawn Kelsey said that a MOU would have to be done with WARM. Judge Schneider suggested that the funding could be discussed during Fiscal Court next week. County Attorney Steve Gold said they would begin the MOU process and he would get with Dale or Nicole for specific outcomes and deliverables. Dale said they would start drafting a job description of the director.

There being no further business to come before the court, Magistrate Puttman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Magistrate Starks.



Brad Schneider  
County Judge Executive

ATTEST:



Kurt Wiesen  
Fiscal Court Clerk