

At a Regular Meeting of the 911 Communications Oversight Committee on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of City Hall located at 300 South 5th Street. The following Committee members were present: Edwin Jones, Dr. Irvin Smith, Carol Gault, Jewel Jones and Kevin Kauffeld (5). Chairperson Kevin Kauffeld presided.

Also present were Police Chief Brian Laird; Fire Chief Steve Kyle; Finance Director Jon Perkins; Communications Manager Pam Spencer; City Manager Daron Jordan; Doug Cooper, Hendron Fire Department; Donald Elrod, West McCracken Fire; Robert Smith, Motorola; Ryan Norman, McCracken County Sheriff's Department, Larry Freeman, Lone Oak Fire Department, Stacy Blankenship, Attorney at Law.

City Clerk Lindsay Parish could not attend. Assistant City Clerk Claudia Meeks attended in her place and took the meeting minutes.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Carol Gault offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Jewel Jones to approve minutes for January 24, 2022. All in favor.

GOVERNANCE

Stacy Blankenship was present to present information related to the governance of 911. Specifically, Commissioner Jones' inquiries regarding whether or not a joint City/County board could hire the Police Department or the McCracken County Sheriff to control 911. Stacy has represented 911 since 1998. Stacy suggested that the city continue the day-to-day operation of 911, with the Board being comprised of law enforcement personnel. The Committee discussed having a 5-member Board – two members being appointed by the Mayor (one being the Chief of Police; two members being appointed by the Judge Executive (one being the McCracken County Sheriff), and one member being a Joint appointment. Stacy will update the agreement that she has worked on in the past and provide it to Lindsay Parish, who can distribute to the Committee.

UPGRADES

Federal Engineering will join the February 28 meeting via virtual meeting.

Chief Laird asked that a point person be established for contact from Federal Engineering.

If there are any additional questions that need to be addressed, Chief Laird asked that those questions be directed to him so he can forward the Federal Engineering.

The Committee decided to defer any discussion regarding upgrades until after the February 28 Federal Engineering presentation.

FUNDING

Several cases regarding 911 utility fees are pending before different courts (Campbell County has a case pending before the Supreme Court; Hardin County has a case pending before the Court of Appeals; Marshall County has a case that is supposed to go to trial this summer.)

Stacy Blankenship pointed out that in her research she discovered that if a fee is based on water meters it

requires PSE approval, if it is just a charge on the water bill, no approval is needed.

How do you spread it out so that the burden is borne equally? If it's a parcel fee, only the people that own real estate would be subject to payment. How would you collect an address fee on rental property? If you assess a fee on water usage, how would you collect on the households in the county that have a well. How do you spread it out so that the burden is borne equally?

The Committee requested that the City Clerk's Office contact Paducah Water to find out a water meter count.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following needs, information and next steps:

Chairperson Kauffeld felt that it might not be prudent to have Stacy in attendance at the February 28 meeting, since the bulk of that meeting will be the presentation by Federal Engineering. Stacy will compile all the information requested and send it to Lindsay Parish for distribution prior to the February 28 meeting.

Lindsay Parish will set up the equipment for the Zoom meeting with Federal Engineering on February 28 at 1:30 p.m.

FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION & ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Committee had the following questions:

#10 – How may real estate parcels do not have a water meter? The City Clerk's Office will contact Paducah Water for more information.

#13 – Who established the five tower minimum? Chief Kyle explained that the five tower minimum was established so that we could meet the National Standard of 95% reliability. Federal Engineering that go into detail.

#16 – What is the benefit to the county fire departments to move from the current VHF system to the 800 system? Dr. Smith will get in touch with area volunteer fire department Chiefs to gather information on their current system. He will report that information back to Chief Brian Laird.

The Committee members will develop their questions for Federal Engineering and send to Chairperson Kauffeld to compile.

ADJOURN

Mr. Jewel Jones offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Gault to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

ADOPTED: February 28, 2022