

At a Regular Meeting of the 911 Communications Oversight Committee on Monday, June 13, 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: Dr. Irvin Smith, Jewel Jones, and Kevin Kauffeld (3). Commissioner Carol Gault and Commissioner Eddie Jones were absent (2). Chairperson Kevin Kauffeld presided.

Also present were Police Chief Brian Laird; Fire Chief Steve Kyle; Communications Manager Pam Spencer; Controller Audra Herndon; Judge Executive Craig Clymer; Deputy Judge Executive Steve Doolittle; and City Clerk Lindsay Parish.

City Clerk Lindsay Parish took the minutes of the meeting.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

*Jewel Jones offered motion, seconded by Dr. Irvin Smith to amend the minutes of May 23, 2022, to add language about a small working group meeting to work with Federal Engineering on the development of the Request for Proposals. All in favor.*

*Jewel Jones offered motion, seconded by Dr. Irvin Smith, to adopt the minutes of May 23, 2022 as amended. All in favor.*

### **UPDATE ON RFP PROCESS & TIMELINE**

Police Chief Brian Laird provided the following update:

The small working group has been meeting virtually with Federal Engineering. The working group will meet with Federal Engineering on June 14, 2022. The needs for the upgraded radio system are being reviewed by the small group. The group has had several questions, which Federal Engineering is working to answer. A draft RFP is expected within the next 30-45 days, which will be brought back to the committee for review. Once the RFP is released, the process will take approximately 4 months.

### **DR. IRVIN SMITH COMMENTS**

The small working group has had two (2) good meetings with Federal Engineering to date and has received a lot of answers to questions. The RFP is a very technical document and Federal Engineering is helping the working group take the needs for the upgraded system and put that information into the technical specifications. The group will be asking Federal Engineering about the 95% reliability standard and what that standard means for actual structures in McCracken County.

### **CHAIRPERSON KAUFFELD COMMENTS**

The 911 Communications Oversight Committee needs to continue discussions to find a funding source while the RFP process is ongoing. The charge of the Committee is to present options with funding needs to the City and County to operate the 911 system. The Committee will address the funding needs for the 911 upgrade and the governance of 911 at future meetings.

**UPDATE ON FUNDING OPTIONS**

Chairperson Kauffeld updated the Committee on funding options. He has reached out to Stacey Blankenship and she has provided the group with information from other counties. Chairperson Kauffeld is going to gather more information by setting a meeting with Deputy Judge Executive Steve Doolittle and Finance Director Jon Perkins. Chairperson Kauffeld also intends to reach out to Hardin County to gain more information on their 911 parcel fee.

**JUDGE EXECUTIVE CLYMER COMMENTS**

Judge Executive Craig Clymer offered the following comments:

He thanked the committee for the time and effort they have devoted to this important endeavor. He wants the very best system for the City and the County. He is concerned that a push for urgency will prevent the Committee from looking at all possibilities and doing all of the necessary due diligence. With his background in Law Enforcement, his primary concern is that the City and County have the best 911 system. He agrees with moving forward but not at the risk of overlooking possibilities. He commented that he disagrees with the statements made at the last meeting related to failure of the Windows XP system and that there are backups in place. He also disagrees with the civil liability issue that was brought up at the previous meeting because Government officials have sovereign immunity in their governmental capacities. The most important consideration is that the citizens and public safety employees are protected. The City and the County signed Memorandums of Understanding to work together on the Sports Complex and the 911 Upgrade. The City has taken the position that it will not go forward with the Sports Complex Interlocal Agreement until the 911 Radio System Upgrade Interlocal Agreement is also in place. He urged that the Sports Complex Interlocal Agreement is ready to go and will provide tourism and benefit to the community. The Judge urged the Committee to continue their work, but that the sense of urgency should prevent full due diligence.

**CHAIRPERSON KAUFFELD COMMENTS**

Chairperson Kauffeld reassured the group that the Committee will do all necessary due diligence. The role of the Committee is to research and make recommendations to the City and the County. The City Commission and County Fiscal Court must make the final decisions related to the 911 System upgrade. All recommendations made to the City and County will be fully vetted.

**JEWEL JONES COMMENTS**

Jewel Jones asked for clarification from Judge Executive Clymer on his points related to liability and Windows XP failure. The Judge clarified that if Windows XP fails, there are still handheld radios and that the State can step in to assist. Related to liability issues, it is important to make progress, but that if the system were to fail, government officials have sovereign immunity.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Committee concurred that they would have a Special Called Meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall.

**ADJOURN**

*Mr. Jewel Jones offered motion, seconded by Dr. Irvin Smith to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.*

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_