



# City of Pflugerville

## Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Tuesday, September 29, 2020

6:00 PM

100 East Main Street, Suite 500

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#### **Joint Worksession with Travis County ESD No. 2 Board of Commissioners (Telephone/Video Conference)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City Council will conduct this Worksession by telephone/video conference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings to slow the spread of the COVID-19. There will be no public access to the location described above.

This Worksession Agenda and the Agenda Packet, are posted online at <https://pflugerville.legistar.com>

This telephonic/video meeting will be hosted through WebEx.  
Meeting Link: <https://pflugervilletx.webex.com/pflugervilletx/onstage/g.php?MTID=e53b09b9bbb8f16da1a34c11ab78fc431>

Meeting Code/Number: 146 767 8258  
Dial-in number: (US toll): = 1-408-418-9388

Public comment will be allowed via telephone/video conference at the Worksession scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. All speakers must register to speak at least 2 hours in advance of the Worksession. Speakers must call in at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the Worksession in order to speak. Written comments may also be submitted 2 hours in advance of the Worksession.

To register to speak or to submit written comments, please email [citysecretary@pflugervilletx.gov](mailto:citysecretary@pflugervilletx.gov) at least 2 hours in advance of the Worksession. Name and address must be included. Written comments are limited to 250 words.

A recording of the telephone/video meeting will be made, and will be available to the public upon written request.

The meeting will be available live for viewing on PftV on the City website:  
<https://www.pflugervilletx.gov/city-government/communications/pftv>

#### **1. Call to order**

Mayor Pro Tem Peña called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The worksession took place as a telephone/video conference. Councilmembers Doug Weiss, Jeff Marsh, Rudy Metayer, and Jim McDonald were in attendance.

Councilmember Mike Heath joined the worksession at 6:06 p.m. Mayor Victor Gonzales was absent. City employees attending: Sereniah Breland, City Manager; Dan Santee, City Attorney; Trey Fletcher, Deputy City Manager; Lauren Henkes, Assistant Finance Director; Trista Evans, Deputy City Secretary; Gwen Holford, Digital Content Web Specialist.

## **2. Public Comment**

Mayor Pro Tem Peña stated that request for public comment was taken until 4:00 p.m. today and that he had received one written public comment. He read the comment from Bob Reichenbach.

Bob Reichenbach, Saxony resident, asked that the Council vote against item 3A. stating a raise in taxes would hurt the residents.

Sarah Becker, North Park resident, stated understanding when tax increase becomes a necessity and firefights and EMS need support. She stated the amount of coverage for ESD2 is larger than Georgetown's but they have the same amount of stations. She stated that reduced response times makes a difference in traumatic situations.

Lorrie Schutt, Villages of Hidden Lake resident, spoke in support , stating she echoed what Sarah Becker said. She provided details regarding her personal experience with EMS and her gratitude for their work.

Anthony Nguyen, Greenridge resident, spoke against ESD2 creating a new district. He stated that revenue from taxes has almost doubled, expenses tripled for ESD, city population has not doubled. He stated that the issue was with too much spending, not that there are not enough taxes. He stated we can always do more with more money, but citizens are already overtaxed and this is not the right time.

Joshua Stubblefield, President of Pflugerville Professional Firefighters Association, stated that ESD2 cannot keep up with the growth as call volumes increase. He stated they took on EMS because there was an ambulance in the district 44% of the time and response times were important. He stated the petition to put the item on the ballot had citizen support.

Trevor Stokes, Representative, Pflugerville Professional Firefighters Association, responded to some of the previous comments and stated reality of providing EMS services is more complex and asked council to consider facts from the experts and move to allow citizens to vote and decide if this matters them.

In accordance with the Texas Attorney General's Opinion, any public comment that is made on an item that is not on the published final agenda will only be heard by the City Council. No formal action, discussion, deliberation, or comment will be made by the City Council. Each person providing public comment will be limited to 3 minutes.

## **3. Discuss only**

- 3A. [2020-8689](#) Conduct a joint worksession with the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 Board of Commissioners to discuss funding for EMS related services, including review of the District's financial and

operational projections of growth in revenue, population, and service demand, identified options for provision of emergency services within the area served by the District, and the related impacts on response times and incident outcomes. No action to be taken.

Mike Bessner, Travis County ESD2 Board President, introduced ESD members attending and provided background on the topic. He stated knowing that they faced future deficits, they formed a committee to try to come up with some solutions that would help maintain services.

Commissioner April Griffin provided information on the services provided by Travis County ESD2 and stated that advanced life support first response and ambulance transport service were the main topics to discuss, not basic first responder and fire services. Commissioner Griffin provided some history regarding taking on ambulance services from Austin Travis County due to limited availability for residents and response times.

Fire Chief Ron Moellenberg provided comment regarding the addition of station 5 and standards of cover based on location. He provided data regarding ESD2 coverage and growth.

Assistant Chief of Operations Nick Perkins provided additional detail regarding assuming EMS services in 2017 and stated the district has had consistent increase in call volume. Asst. Chief Perkins stated that Senate Bill 2 brought additional funding challenges and presented their financial forecast showing a significant deficit by FY25 if current operations continue. He stated that they are going to make significant cuts it will be services that are provided by people. Asst. Chief Perkins provided clarifications to council questions. Asst. Chief Perkins stated additional resources are need to keep up with growth based on their growth coverage analysis. Asst. Chief Perkins presented information on three ways to provide EMS transport: a third party system, fire based EMS, or a for profit system.

Commissioner Griffin stated they saw four options: Do nothing and continue services and response times will grow; Reduce or eliminate services such as the ambulance transport service; Establishment of agreement between district, City, Travis County; Voter driven creation of an overlay district to fund EMS and preserve current level of service. Commissioner Griffin stated it is something for the citizens to make a decision about and seeking consent from city to allow an election.

Councilmember Heath stated he would like to see real numbers and not assumptions in regards to revenues and expenses. Commissioner Griffin stated those would be provided. Councilmember Metayer asked for clarification regarding Austin Travis County EMS. Chief Moellenberg provided detail regarding their particular pay structure.

Councilmember McDonald requested clarification regarding tax rate in terms of how it is effected by Senate Bill 2. Discussion followed.

Councilmember McDonald requested clarification regarding boundary for sales tax collections. Chief Moellenberg provided details.

Councilmember Marsh discussed having different taxing entities for different

revenue in different places and not removing services. Discussion followed

Mayor Pro Tem Peña suggested a couple councilmembers and commissioners meet to try to solve the issue. Commissioner Mike Howe stated Commissioner Griffin and himself would meet the councilmembers.

John Carlton, ESD2 Attorney, provided comment stating a larger discussion was needed to discuss sales tax and clearing some of the questions.

Councilmember McDonald suggested since the overlay would also effect the ETJ, they should reach out to Travis County Commissioners and look to include Commissioner Travillion in the discussions moving forward.

Councilmember Weiss stated with the petition moving forward they need to take perspective of what can be done in the future. Discussion followed detailing the steps the petition could take.

Councilmember Metayer asked if there had been further conversations regarding ramifications of funding to ensure exhaustion of all resources before an overlay.

Mayor Pro Tem Peña stated this is a bigger discussion. He stated to look to reconvene around November after the election. Councilmembers and Commissioners noted agreement.

#### **4. Adjourn**

Councilmember Metayer made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Heath seconded. All voted in favor. Worksession adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Evans  
Deputy City Secretary

Approved as presented on October 13, 2020.