

MINUTES – AUGUST 6, 1998

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS

On Thursday, the 6th day of August, 1998, the Commissioners' Court convened the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 1:49 PM in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, Austin, Texas. Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk, was represented by Deputy Robert Resnick.

The Commissioners' Court retired to Executive Session at 3:15 PM and reconvened the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 3:38 PM.

The Commissioners' Court adjourned the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 4:02 PM.

Clerk's Note: The Commissioners' Court record notes that Precinct 1 Commissioner Darwin McKee was not present during this Planning and Budget Process Voting Session.

1. CONSIDER AND ACT ON PLANNING ISSUES AS PART OF THE FY 1999 PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS, INCLUDING CUTS TO CURRENT BUDGET LEVELS AND FEE INCREASES. (1:49 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, Planning and Budget Office (PBO); and Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO.

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

RIF's (1:52 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; and Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO.

Motion by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to authorize PBO to send out notices on the 7 RIF's that were approved by the Court Wednesday, August 5, 1998, and to have all of the other RIF's ready to distribute next week, with final authorization by the Commissioners' Court for their distribution on either August 12 or 13, 1998.

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM (1:56 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Alan Miller, Budget Analyst, PBO; and Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO.

Motion by Judge Aleshire **and seconded by** Commissioner Gómez to direct PBO to replace \$50,000.00 for the program.

Maker and Second accept the Friendly Amendment by Commissioner Sonleitner that the Court and PBO receive monthly monitoring reports on whether delays are occurring in the implementation of the program. PBO can make it part of their monthly expenditure analysis, to report whether or not projects such as this are proceeding.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Judge Aleshire **and seconded by** Commissioner Gómez.

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTORING (2:03 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Alan Miller, Budget Analyst, PBO; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO

Motion by Commissioner Gómez **and seconded by** Judge Aleshire to direct PBO to restore \$35,000.00 in funding for the Early Childhood Mentoring program.

Withdrawal of the previous Motion was made by Commissioner Gómez.

BUDGET “PARKING LOT” (2:12 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; and Karen Shafer Castro, Senior Planning and Budget Analyst, PBO.

Discussion Only.

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

A. FEE INCREASES (2:26 PM)

PARK FEES (2:26 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Joe Gieselman, Executive Manager, Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR).

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner **and seconded by** Judge Aleshire to instruct TNR to investigate the possibility of, and bring forward recommendations for, changes in any and all park fees. The process should have maximum public input and begin immediately, in order to bring back to the Court as soon as May 1, 1999, any potential recommendations for changes.

Maker accept the Friendly Amendment by Judge Aleshire that the report should be brought to the Court by April 1, 1999 instead of May 1, 1999.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Sonleitner.

A Clarification was made of the previous Motion by Commissioner Moore that park fees must be high enough to adequately maintain the parks.

An Addition was made to the previous Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner that TNR's report include other operational kinds of issues.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

ITEM 1.A CONTINUED**PARKING FEES (2:36 PM)**

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; and Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO.

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner and seconded by Commissioner Moore to re-instate employee parking fees of \$10/month for uncovered parking spaces and \$20/month for covered spaces.

Restatement of the previous Motion was made by Commissioner Sonleitner that for purposes of feedback and further discussion, the Court inform employees of its intent to reinstate an employee parking fee. There will be a value placed on all parking spaces that Travis County offers, but with the idea that those that are downtown will be priced at \$10 for uncovered and \$20 for a covered space. Employees with current spaces would be given the first opportunity to keep them, but there would be a price attached to those spaces.

Restatement of the previous Motion was made by Commissioner Sonleitner that the Court is “seriously considering” reinstating the parking fee beginning October 1, 1998, and that PBO analyze what revenue this might generate. Parking spaces outside of the downtown complex would have a value of \$0 placed on them.

A Clarification was made of the previous Motion was made by Judge Aleshire that employees be informed by a payroll staffer.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	no
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

B. FEE INCREASE CATEGORY A – FEE INCREASES CANDIDATES (2:58 PM)**AUTOPSY FEES (2:58 PM)**

Motion by Judge Aleshire and seconded by Commissioner Moore to increase autopsy fees from \$900.00 to \$1,000.00.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

ITEM 1.B CONTINUED

EVALUATION FEES, PROGRAM FEES (2:59 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Bill Campbell, Financial Analyst, Justice and Public Safety (JPS); and Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO.

Motion by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to approve Category A fee increases as recommended by Staff.

Maker accept the Friendly Amendment by Judge Aleshire that the Court asks Bill Campbell or someone else familiar with the fees to contact the appropriate District or County Court-at-Law judges as soon as possible and provide that input back to the Court no later than Wednesday, August 12, 1998.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner.

Motion carried:	County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
	Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
	Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
	Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
	Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

C. FEE INCREASE CATEGORY B – FEE INCREASES MAY BE POSSIBLE (3:02 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Bill Campbell, Financial Analyst, Justice and Public Safety (JPS); Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; and Shoshanna Lansberg, Budget Analyst, PBO.

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner **and seconded by** Commissioner Moore to get feedback from CES and SACA in regards to the potential for a \$5.00 or \$10.00 across-the-board fee increase on Fee Items 7-15.

No Vote was taken on this Motion.

ITEM 1.C CONTINUED

STARFLIGHT FEES (3:10 PM) (3:38 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; Shoshanna Lansberg, Budget Analyst, PBO; and Bill Campbell, Financial Analyst, PBO.

Discussion Only.

Clerk's Note: Judge Aleshire announced that the Court would retire to Executive Session to consider a legal issue affecting the Budget Planning Process.

MEDIATION FEES (3:42 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; and Bill Campbell, Financial Analyst, JPS.

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner **and seconded by** Commissioner Moore to institute a \$10.00 across-the-board increase on Fee Items 40-45, as recommended by the Dispute Resolution Center.

A Clarification of the previous Motion was made by Commissioner Moore that the Court goes on record as supporting action by the Board of the Dispute Resolution Center to increase its fees, which the Court would then ratify.

Motion carried:	County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
	Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
	Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
	Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
	Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

ITEM 1.C CONTINUED

FIRE MARSHALL INSPECTION FEES (3:47 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS.

Motion by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Gómez to institute a \$5.00 increase on Fee Items 114 & 116-124.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	yes

SUMMARY/SCHEDULING (3:50 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; and Alicia Perez, Executive Manager, Administrative Operations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to adjourn the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session. (4:02 PM)

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire - yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee - absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner - yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore - yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez - absent

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Date of Approval

Bill Aleshire, Travis County Judge