



**Public Safety Committee
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 2015**

The Public Safety Committee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2015 at 301 W. Second St. in Austin, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Zimmerman called the Board Meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Don Zimmerman, Chair; Greg Casar, Vice-Chair; Ora Houston; Leslie Pool

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting on May 26, 2015 by a unanimous vote.

2. CITY STAFF BRIEFING REGARDING NAMING A NEW PERMANENT MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK.

Sonya Alexander-Harry shared an updated timeline for the hiring process for filling the Municipal Court Clerk position.

The job posting deadline is July 6, 2015. Committee Members will schedule a special hour meeting in July to rank the applicants based on written applications and phone interviews. They will give direction of which three applicants they would like to have in-person interviews with during the first week of August. The item can be posted on the August 27th full City Council agenda. Ms. Alexander-Harry will continue to provide weekly updates to the Committee. Committee Members said they will consider calling a special meeting during the first week of August to review the status of the hiring process.

3. CITY STAFF BRIEFING REGARDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS THROUGH AND AROUND THE CITY OF AUSTIN.

Rob Spillar, Director, Austin Transportation Department gave his presentation on Non-Radioactive Hazardous Materials.

Director Spillar briefed the Committee Members on the progress of creating a route for hazardous cargo. Due to the dense urban area in Austin, it would be hard to not route near high risk areas and the ability to change a route is limited. He discussed other cities who have shared their process along with what works and what has not. He provided a list of hazardous leakages between 2010 and 2012 and will update the list to include 2013 and 2014.

4. STAFF BRIEFING, INVITED TESTIMONY, AND POLICY DISCUSSION REGARDING HAVING CITY STAFF FORMULATE A PLAN FOR MERGING THE EMS AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17.

Information was given by Assistant City Manager Rey Arellano and public speakers, which included Association Presidents for Austin – Travis County EMS and the Austin Fire Department. ACM Arellano explained that although the topic has been talked about in the past, there is no current effort to evaluate a merger and therefore there was no briefing to provide. Staff was present from both departments to listen to the discussion and respond to questions. After hearing from the speakers, Committee Members agreed that the EMS and Fire Departments need to continue to work on resolving issues in their departments and agreed that this item should be tabled for now.

Committee Members acknowledged Dr. Paul Hinchey’s resignation as the Austin – Travis County EMS System’s Medical Director. Understanding that this position is hired by the City Manager, it was requested that they be kept in the loop on the hiring process.

Speakers:

1. Bob Nicks, President, Austin Fire Department Association
2. Anthony Marquardt, President, Austin – Travis County EMS Employee Association
3. Mike Levy, citizen
4. Jon Wolfe, citizen

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

SPEAKERS SIGNED UP PRIOR TO THIS ITEM BEING CALLED WILL EACH BE ALLOWED THREE MINUTES TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS REGARDING ITEMS POSTED OR NOT POSTED ON THIS AGENDA.

Speakers: None

ADJOURN

Chair Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m., without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 24th day of August, 2015 on a unanimous vote.