

MINUTES – AUGUST 19, 1998

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS

On Wednesday, the 19th day of August, 1998, the Commissioners' Court convened the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 3:07 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 Melissa Nuñez.

The Commissioners' Court adjourned the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 4:58 PM.

- 1. CONSIDER AND ACT ON PLANNING ISSUES AS PART OF THE FY 1999 PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS. (3:07 PM)**

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

STATUS OF FY 99 DRAFT BUDGET (3:08 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Discussion Only.

REVIEW CHANGES SINCE 8/17 AND 8/19 STATUS SHEET (3:09 PM) (3:39 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 Gómez to use the budget surplus of \$136,369.00 plus \$102,000.00 from the funding for Workforce Development towards reducing the CAN contracts making the budget surplus \$47,369.00, thus making the funding for Workforce Development \$500,000.00 (plus the existing \$48,000.00) with the knowledge that as soon as the Court receives the fourth revenue estimate the \$102,000.00 is replaced in the funding first, making a total of \$650,000.00 for Workforce Development.

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

Motion by Commissioner McKee and **seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner that the \$271,639.00 from Road and Bridge be moved out of the “Other Reductions” category.

Maker accepts the Friendly Amendment to the previous Motion by Judge Aleshire that the \$271,639.00 be moved to up into the Road and Bridge Fund Unallocated Reserve and that the Court increase the \$983,019.00 in the Road and Bridge Fund Unallocated Reserve by \$271,639.00.

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

WRITTEN DRAFT BUDGET DESCRIPTION (3:16 PM)

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

Discussion Only.

LIKELIHOOD OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE AND LOWER ENDING FUND BALANCE (3:10 PM)

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

Discussion Only.

GUIDANCE ON PRIORITIES FOR BALANCING THE BUDGET AS RESOURCES INCREASE OR DECREASE (3:21 PM) (3:52 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 Gómez that the number one parking lot slot goes to Workforce Development to increase the funding level to \$650,000.00.

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

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner and **seconded by** Commissioner Gómez that for purposes of this budget the Unallocated Reserve needs to go to 11%, and that amount of money for the moment needs to be deducted from the Allocated Reserve and that the number two slot in the parking lot is to get the Allocated Reserve back up to \$1,500,000.00.

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

Clerks Note: Judge Aleshire by Consensus stated that based on the previous vote of the Court the \$33,000.00 Funding for the Children’s Advocacy Center is still in the parking lot but that it be moved to parking lot slot number 3.

DEBT SERVICE (4:36 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 Gómez to move the reserve in fund # 324 into # 336 and give instructions to PBO and the Auditor to accomplish that.

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

VARIOUS LOOSE ENDS AND BRIEFINGS (4:16 PM)

CONSTABLES' RIF'S POSITIONS BASED ON REVISED ASAP BUDGET (4:16 PM)

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

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner to approve an additional 5 RIF notices to be sent out to the slot numbers as reflected on the August 19, 1998 PBO memo giving the specifics for Precincts 1, 2, 3, and 4 and their specific division slot numbers.

There was not a second on the Motion.

A Restatement was made of the previous Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner and **seconded by** Commissioner Gómez that the 3 filled positions in slots 21, 23, and 10 in Precincts 2, 3, and 4 respectively that the RIF notices be sent to them, and the other 2 positions that are currently vacant be eliminated.

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

JP REVENUE AND STAFFING (4:29 PM)

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

Item JP REVENUE AND STAFFING postponed until August 27, 1998.

SOLID WASTE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TRANSFER (4:19 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; Margo Frasier, Travis County Sheriff; and Eric Sheppard, Assistant County Attorney, Director of Litigation Division.

Motion by Judge Aleshire that the transfer to the Sheriff's office would occur December 1, 1998 and the RIF notice be given to the employees, if the Sheriff confirms that the RIF notice be given before September 1, 1998.

There was not a second on the Motion.

A Restatement was made of the previous Motion by Judge Aleshire and **seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner for the Court to preauthorize a transfer from HHSD to the Sheriffs Office to cover the full cost of these positions if they are vacated prior to December 1, 1998, but otherwise these positions would be RIFed in the HHSD budget effective December 1, 1998 and this motion would also give authorization to give the RIF notice to the two employees before September 1, 1998 that the RIF would be effective December 1, 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

EARMARKS? (4:38 PM)

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

Item EARMARKS? postponed until August 27, 1998.

HHS Reorganization – Earmark? (4:38 PM)

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

Item HHS Reorganization – Earmark? postponed until August 27, 1998.

Earmark On Transfer of Sewer Permits? (4:38 PM)

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

Item Earmark On Transfer Of Sewer Permits? postponed until August 27, 1998.

Scrubbing the Earmarks on Allocated Reserves (4:38 PM)

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

Item Scrubbing The Earmarks On Allocated Reserves postponed until August 27, 1998.

COMPENSATION MATTERS (4:04 PM)

Elected Officials Salaries (4:04 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; and Ron Ledford, Court Administrator of Civil Courts.

Motion by Judge Aleshire and **seconded by** Commissioner Gómez to request that a fiscal note be attached without any increase for the County Judge.

A Restatement was made of the previous Motion by Judge Aleshire and **seconded by** Commissioner Gómez to relate to the Salary Advisory Committee recommendation that the Court instruct PBO to anticipate in the budget that the Committee report be accepted with the exceptions that the Commissioners and County Judge would not receive the additional 1.5%. However, the Commissioner Precinct 1 salary would be adjusted, taking note that the Add Pay for every Elected Official be deducted.

Motion carried:

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

Employees Being Hired at Higher Compensation Levels than the Employees they are Replacing

Item Employees Being Hired at Higher Compensation Levels than the Employees they are Replacing was not discussed.

Small Office Performance Based Pay Allocations (4:40 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 Gómez that for budgeting purposes, in small offices with 15 employees or less, they have their allocation be based on 3.5% per employee. That does not mean that they automatically get more performance pay. It is simply to give them more maneuvering room to make the allocations they need.

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

City’s Market Salary Study Resulting in Higher Salaries (4:45 PM)

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

Discussion Only.

Livable Wage Distributed to Departments from Compensation Reserve (3:38 PM)

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

Discussion Only.

DISTRICT CLERK REORGANIZATION (4:45 PM)

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

Item DISTRICT CLERK REORGANIZATION postponed until August 20, 1998.

ROLLING FREEZE (4:49 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner for approval of the Rolling Freeze for the job vacancies of departments under the Commissioners' Court approval and authority.

The previous Motion failed for lack of a second.

“AUSTIN BASH” (4:50 PM)

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner and **seconded by** Commissioner Gómez to place an earmark of \$1,000.00 on Allocated Reserves for the “Austin Bash”.

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

FEES FROM CURB AND DRIVEWAY CUTS AND ESCROWED FLOOD PLAIN FEES
(4:51 PM)

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

Discussion Only.

FUTURE WORK SESSIONS (4:29 PM)

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

Discussion Only.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner and **seconded by** Commissioner Gómez to adjourn the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session. (4:58 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 - yes

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Date of Approval

Bill Aleshire, Travis County Judge