

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019, PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5 p.m. City Hall Municipal Court Room. Members present: Morgan, Reynolds, Platteter. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, J. Hoover, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, R. Nash, R. Parmley, B. Stoneberg, D. Willingham, T. Ziesler.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Morgan called the meeting to order and presided.

Gateway Pavilion Vs. Options:

Adm. Christianson offered opening comments on how it came to be that we are here talking again about the proposed Gateway Pavilion when construction plans are nearly complete. It seems Mr. Morgan's concerns about some dimensions were precipitated by a market vendor's recommendations that:

- The center tower which is intended only to be an eye catcher be eliminated to reduce costs.
- That the center section roofline be at a right angle to the main structure.
- That the center section be widened to 12 feet with overhangs extending both north and south to create a sense of entrance.
- If the City pays for materials, the vendor expressed interest in fabricating a cupola to serve the role the center tower would have.

Mr. Ziesler then traced the history all the way from the 2002 tornado of consideration of using the old Methodist Church as a market. He explained how use of the entire structure was envisioned.

Discussion followed during which the following were among comment made:

- Why weren't vendors invited to this meeting?
- I am tired of this debate, which has gone on for years.
- The stalls in the design were too narrow.
- In the end it is always about the amount of money involved.
- Maybe the County will consider putting a portion of what it might spend razing the building into reuse.
- The County would certainly not want to continue to own the old church.
- The County would also want to be assured that other parties are committed to the project.
- Maybe the LDC would consider
- Hoover Construction could do a very nice job making the place a destination.
- Use of tents works great.
- Its never to late to make changes on paper.
- A decision needs to be made soon.
- Vendors don't live in the City and take business away from tax paying stores.
- Rehabbing the former church will likely cost from \$125,000 up. The south end could be re-roofed and then mothballed for a later project.

This discussion concluded with no answers when the Committee needed to travel to the fire hall for the second item on the agenda.

Ambulance Garage:

While some left, the following people joined the meeting at the fire hall: S. Bishop, M. Closs, D. Gudis, D. Pavlik, C. Schultz.

It was explained that the P&FC met previously with County Administrator A. Albarado and County Emergency Government Director Tom Hall and advised them that the County will need to begin paying

rent to the City for the ambulance garage. The reason was stated is that more maintenance needs are cropping up with the facility now 7 years old. Discussion followed during which most present expressed support for requiring rent. It was noted that, whatever decision is made, might not be in effect for long as ambulance services may be run out of a new hospital when all is said and done.

Mention was made of a possible Safe House Grant to add on-site housing. It was noted this program only provides assistance when there are full time firefighters. It may be possible that it would be used to provide sleeping quarters for responders.

There was discussion of the City possibly promising LFD not to lease alternate ambulance storage space to the County.

Motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to recommend to the City Council that Rusk County be charged rent of \$1,000/month for the ambulance garage. [Presumably, such amount will be used for fire hall/ambulance garage maintenance.]

Upon motion by Morgan, which was seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.