

HOMEDALE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Homedale City Hall
31 W. Wyoming Street

May 30, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Special Meeting Minutes

Presiding: Council President Dave Downum (Mayor Fink; absent)

Council Present: Dave Downum, Tim Downing, Aaron Tines, Steve Atkins (per phone)

Guests: See attached

Attorney: Paul J. Fitzer

Staff Attending: Alice E. Pegram, Jeff Eidemiller

DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICE (SRO):

Discussion and decision on partnering with Homedale School District for a four year period.

Includes applying for a 3 year 75% grant for part of the cost.

Councilman Downum opened the meeting and asked for any comments:

Jeff spoke about the school boards' decision; they feel there is a definite need; they did want to know who he would report to and where he would be.

They felt they could go ahead with the financial obligation even though the school bond failed; they feel the parents want the school resource officer and they need to provide it. Jeff stated they are willing to go with the 12.5% for the first three years and then 75% for the fourth year with the City providing the 25% in the fourth year. Jeff stated everyone understands the officer could be let go after the fourth year. He did add there might be extra attention paid to those for an additional grant if it would mean someone would be let go without additional funding.

Councilman Downing said we need to crunch numbers to see where we are at; he said it has been 3 years since the employees received raises and now we would be adding to the payroll another position. Councilman Downing did add Wilder City does not have an SRO for the Wilder Schools; they do have an officer at COSSA and the city receives \$9,000 per year. Jeff said with the grant in the fourth year we would pay \$1,100 more than that for a full time officer.

Councilman Downing said the payroll not including benefits and elected officials is over \$400,000 and more than we collect in property tax money. Jeff said that was fuzzy math because the public works people are paid out of dedicated funds; Councilman Downing said he realized that, but if we did not get money from other funds we would be belly up. He added we cannot raise the liquor or sales tax money; only the property tax and sewer and water fees can be raised. He said as good as the cause is he feels unless we are willing to raise taxes more than the 3% we cannot proceed on with the SRO. He added he did not want to get into a situation where they had to raise the taxes more than the 3%; he said the numbers would be going up with raises and increases with our expenses. He said he felt it was not a responsible thing to do to enter into the contract.

Jeff said his payroll would not go up; and didn't feel it was a fair statement to say we would have to raise property taxes to make this work since they have not looked at the budget.

Councilman Downing said the levy did not pass and they would be circumventing the voters if they agreed with the SRO contract. He said he felt it was pushed on the Council and it had not been on the agenda once. He said it was not a transparent item. Jeff said he had not gotten to it in time to add to the agenda, but he brought it up in regular meetings and he had discussed it with the Mayor. He said the grant didn't open until April 22nd and he found out about it May 8th and he brought it to the Council as soon as he learned of it. He added they have extended the deadline for the grant until June 4th.

Councilman Atkins said he felt the same as the last meeting and feels times have changed and it is a necessity.

Councilman Downum said he agreed with Steve; times have changed and it is a necessity. He added if the city can help keep the kids safe for \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year; he believes they need to do it.

Councilman Tines said the City has issues and some are growing; he believes as an elected official as someone who represents the city they need to step in and put certain things in place to protect everyone if they can support it. He said no matter what they do; they are spending money and he believes this is a great way to start and over time they can maintain the program. He said his main concern is helping the community and there are a lot of kids in town that need help; a mentor; a helper. He said he is favor of it.

Councilman Downing asked what about the numbers on what we are taking in vs. what we are spending. Councilman Tines said we spend a lot of money on other things and he doesn't feel this amount of money will bankrupt the city. Councilman Downing said this is an ongoing project that will continue to need support. Councilman Tines said we will need to see at budget time what projects they value more. Councilman Downing asked about raises for employees; it has been 3 years since they had raises. Jeff asked if we didn't give raises because the city didn't put money in the bank that year or waiting for the other shoe to fall. He said at the end of the year the City is putting money in the bank and per the auditor the city is doing well.

Jeff said he didn't want to leave the table with this being a bad thing; he believes this should be a positive thing. He intent was not to antagonize Tim; Councilman Downing said he was fully aware they had a difference of opinion and he knew he was a minority on this project; but he did feel he should voice his opinion and vote his conscience. He agrees with what Councilman Tines is saying as far as caring and making contributions to the City; but he feels there is a limit as to what the tax payers can do.

Councilman Atkins said he realizes it is several thousand dollars, but he believes it is needed.

Attorney Paul Fitzer asked if the school board has approved that they will pledge these funds; Jeff said they voted last night to support this as the terms given. Paul asked if they authorized the chairman to execute an agreement binding them to it; Jeff said he didn't know but he would check on it, but he felt that would be done after the grant was approved. Paul said he wanted something on file stating they would not withdraw from the four year program.

Councilman Downum asked for a motion; Councilman Tines made the motion for Jeff to proceed and submit the grant request and to have Jeff, the Mayor and Alice sign for the grant; Councilman Atkins seconded. Councilman Downum asked all in favor: Councilman Downum, Councilman Tines and Councilman Atkins voted for and Councilman Downing voted Nay. Motion carried by ½ plus one of the Council.

Councilman Downum adjourned the meeting.

Dave Downum, Council President

Attest: _____
Alice E. Pegram, City Clerk