

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TASK FORCE
CITY OF TOWN & COUNTRY, MO
April 15, 2021
Via Zoom Videoconference
8:00 AM

Members: Alderman Ryan Mortland (Co-Chairman), Alderman Sue Allen (Co-Chairman), Don Sanders, George Tarlas, Todd Solomon, Amber Walsh

OTHERS PRESENT:

City Administrator Bob Shelton, Communications and Administrative Assistant Morgan Kuepfert, West County Fire Chief Jeff Sadtler, West County Fire Deputy Chief Dave Fraizer.

1. Call to Order

Alderman Ryan Mortland called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and the roll as noted above was taken. There was a quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Sanders moved to accept the agenda as submitted, seconded by Mr. Solomon and approved.

3. Approval of March 10, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Sanders moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Walsh and approved.

4. Discussion – Review of Peer City Taxes and Fees

Mr. Shelton reviewed a comparison of business fees between Town and Country and eight other peer municipalities. Categories reviewed include small retail, large retail, small office and large office. The fees were broken out by Fire District Tax, Utilities Tax, Property Tax, and Business License Fees. It was noted in each comparison that Town and Country only collects Business License Fees and Commercial Utilities. Mr. Shelton also noted that utilities cap, by state law, at 8%. Mr. Shelton also reviewed revenues from Business Licenses and Liquor Licenses and noted that compared to peer cities, Town and Country's revenues are much higher. He also noted we are the only City that is either not in a fire district or has a property or fire safety sales tax.

Also reviewed was 2020 Property Tax Bill Ranking broken out by school district. Mr. Shelton noted that Creve Coeur, Chesterfield and Ballwin in the Parkway district, on average, are

\$1.065 higher than Town and Country also in the Parkway district due to the fire district property tax rates.

The Task Force reviewed again the Fire/EMS Service Options chart that was previously distributed. Mr. Shelton noted that if the highest cost scenario was put in place, Town and Country would fall in line with the other municipalities in the Parkway school district.

Alderman Mortland queried the Task Force for any feedback. Mr. Tarlas suggested narrowing the options down to the most optimal solutions that will continue to be effective decades from now. He stated that education to residents is important to making improvements. Following discussion, the Task Force recommended narrowing down the options to Option 4, building two new stations, Option 5, annexing into the Fire District, and subsequently Option 6, where the annexation tax rate will drop after all debts have been paid. Alderman Mortland would like to build out those three options with pros and cons for comparison. Mr. Tarlas noted that a large part of the messaging to the residents should include the repurposing of the funds currently being used for the Fire Contract.

Following discussion, the Task Force will solicit feedback from the Ways and Means and Police, Fire & EMS Commissions members for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Next Meeting Date – May 13, 2021, 8:00 AM via Zoom.

The Task Force will next meet on May 13, 2021 at 8:00 AM via Zoom.

6. Adjourn

At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Sanders moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Solomon and approved.