

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF
THE HAYS CITY COMMISSION AND ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSION
HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.
AT BRIEFSPACE, 219 WEST 10TH STREET, HAYS, KANSAS

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, along with the Ellis County Commission, met for a joint meeting to discuss new agreements regarding Law Enforcement Center/Dispatch operations and maintenance/reconstruction of peripheral roads.

Chair Neal Younger called the County Commission meeting to order:

Roll Call: Present: Neal Younger

Nathan Leiker

Absent: Michael Berges

Mayor Shaun Musil declared a quorum was present and called the City Commission meeting to order.

Roll Call: Present: Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Reese Barrick

Alaina Cunningham

Mason Ruder

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER (LEC) AND DISPATCH AGREEMENT:

Currently, the City of Hays staffs and operates the emergency communications center, fielding emergency calls for all of Ellis County. In turn, the County owns and maintains all the necessary 911 equipment and infrastructure. In exchange for this arrangement, the Hays Police Department and Municipal Court office out of the Ellis County Law Enforcement Center and can house municipal court inmates free of charge. Since the City has intentions to construct a standalone law enforcement facility, the opportunity to reevaluate existing practices presented itself for both governmental entities.

Darin Myers, Ellis County Administrator, stated that Ellis County and Hays Law Enforcement have shared building space since 1976. In that time,

operations have changed, and staffing levels have increased. The City of Hays 2023 Capital Improvement Plan added construction of an independent Police Station and Municipal Court facility. The City's 2024 Budget includes funds to begin the design process.

Per the current 2008 Agreement, the City of Hays Police Department and Municipal Court occupy a portion of the Law Enforcement Center free of charge, including waived fees for Municipal Court inmates. City staffs and operates the Emergency Communications Center and the County provides for the necessary equipment and infrastructure for 911 services.

Mr. Myers reviewed details of the proposed agreement:

- City of Hays will vacate Ellis County Law Enforcement Center in 2026.
- Ellis County will take over dispatch staffing and operations in 2024.
- 2024 – City of Hays will contribute 66% of salary and benefit costs.
- 2025 – City of Hays will contribute 33% of salary and benefit costs.
- 2026 – Ellis County will begin charging the City a fee to house municipal court inmates in accordance with a future agreement to be effective January 1, 2026.
- Agreement requires the City to assume responsibility for a variety of peripheral roads beginning in 2024.

Mayor Musil stated that it is important for the City and County to work together for the future of the City of Hays and Ellis County, and he hopes the collaboration continues.

Commissioner Ruder stated that City and County staff have done a great job working out all of the details to ensure these agreements have the best interest of all the Departments, Emergency Management staff, and taxpayers as well.

3. ROAD AGREEMENT: Collin Bielser, Deputy City Manager, thanked Ellis County staff for their help and added that it has been a pleasure working with them. He stated that associated with the Law Enforcement Center/Dispatch operations agreement is the proposed road agreement. In this agreement, the City assumes responsibility for seven road segments beginning in 2024. Most of

these roads are in both City and County jurisdictions, and some are entirely within the city's limits. Because of these muddled alignments, the responsibility and ownership for various roads surrounding Hays has been a point of confusion.

The road agreement includes language that any future annexations by the City of Hays will include annexation of the entire roadway, up to and including the new annexed property, including both sides of the said road, all the way back to the city limits when feasible or upon consent of all impacted property owners. If annexation of the entire roadway cannot be accomplished by consent, the City will agree to maintain the entire roadway, from the city limits to the new annexed property, as if the entire roadway were legally within the city limits.

Two agreements are being presented for consideration which will transfer the financial responsibilities of annually operating a dispatch center to the County and the long-term liability of maintaining and improving bordering roads to the City. In exchange, the City of Hays Police Department and Ellis County Sheriff's Department will be able to operate more efficiently by gaining much needed space for their respective agencies.

Chair Younger stated without the County the City can't survive and without the City the County can't survive. He added that it is a good thing to get together like this and hopefully the Commissions will work together on future projects as well.

Nathan Leiker moved, Neal Younger seconded, to approve the LEC/Dispatch Agreement.

Vote: Ayes: Neal Younger
Nathan Leiker

Sandy Jacobs moved, Mason Ruder seconded, to approve the LEC/Dispatch Agreement.

Vote: Ayes: Shaun Musil
Sandy Jacobs
Reese Barrick
Alaina Cunningham
Mason Ruder

Neal Younger moved, Nathan Leiker seconded, to approve the Road Agreement.

Vote: Ayes: Neal Younger
Nathan Leiker

Alaina Cunningham moved, Reese Barrick seconded, to approve the Road Agreement.

Vote: Ayes: Shaun Musil
Sandy Jacobs
Reese Barrick
Alaina Cunningham
Mason Ruder

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk