

**State of Texas
County of Denton
City of Lake Dallas**

The Lake Dallas City Council met in a regular meeting on June 30, 2016 in the Lake Dallas City Hall, 212 Main Street, with notice of the meeting given, as required by Title 5, Chapter 551.041 of the Texas Government Code. Mayor Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Julie Mathews	Mayor
Megan Ray	Councilmember 1
Kathy Brownlee	Councilmember 2
Steve Forgey	Councilmember 3
Charlie Price	Councilmember 4
Andi Nolan	Councilmember 5

Staff Present: Interim City Manager/Police Chief Nick Ristagno, City Secretary Joni Vaughn, Patrol Officer Steven Works.

B. INVOCATION

Councilmember Forgey led the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Nolan led the pledges.

D. OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Mathews gave the Oath of Office to Councilmember Megan Ray.

E. VISITORS/CITIZENS AGENDA *In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the City Council is prohibited from acting on or discussing (other than factual responses to specific questions) any items brought before them at this time. Citizen's comments will be limited to five (5) minutes.*

Mayor Mathews opened the Visitors/Citizens Agenda.

No one came forward to speak.

Mayor Mathews closed the Visitors/Citizens Agenda.

F. BUSINESS

- 1) **Consideration and Action to approve the minutes of the June 9th and 23rd, 2016 meetings.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 9th and 23rd, 2016 meetings was made by Councilmember Nolan and second by Councilmember Ray.

Ayes: Councilmembers Nolan, Ray, Brownlee, Forgey, and Price

Noes: None

Motion Passed

G. WORKSHOP – Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Mayor deferred to Councilmembers Nolan and Forgey as members of the Fire Board made up of officials from Hickory Creek, Lake Dallas, and Shady Shores, who have been researching this matter. Councilmembers Nolan and Forgey explained that the research began as an exercise of comparative shopping to see what was available, the same way you would shop for any other item you might purchase, not because the City was unhappy with the service, but as a matter of doing their “due diligence” to make sure tax dollars are being spent efficiently. The workshop is an attempt to bring the new Council up to date with the facts found by the Board. Interim City Manager Ristagno explained some of the history with the fire department negotiations. He noted that the contract negotiations had always been somewhat contentious in regards to payment from the different cities. Five years ago the negotiations were quite contentious and the Managers of Hickory Creek and Lake Dallas were tasked by their respective Councils to begin researching starting their own fire department as City leaders feared the fire payments would soon reach the same level as the expense of owning a fire department. In researching alternatives, Hickory Creek Town Manager John Smith and Interim City Manager Ristagno discovered the Denton County Emergency Services District #1 that serves Argyle, Bartonville, Copper Canyon, Double Oak (EMS contract), North Lake, and Lantana. Talks began with DCESD to discuss what they could provide. It was determined that the DCESD could not purchase equipment outside of their district so Hickory Creek decided they would purchase the equipment and Lake Dallas and Shady Shores would reimburse Hickory Creek so that all three cities would have ownership of the equipment when they were ready to start their own fire department. Services with DCESD would allow for a sizeable savings of about \$250,000 for Hickory Creek and Lake Dallas, as well as some savings for Shady Shores. If a transition was to take place, our ISO rating would stay the same. There would be a difference of equipment with only one engine and two ambulances; Lake Cities Fire has more equipment. But, there would always be mutual aid coverage available. Councilmember Nolan stated that DCESD is a professional fire organization, not a volunteer fire department. She also explained that the Fire Board has discussed having an outside professional fire consultant that has no ties to either party review the information and give a report comparing the services and sharing the cost between the cities. Councilmember Ray stated she liked the idea of having an outside consultant. Councilmember Brownlee asked how soon that could be done. Interim City Manager said there are professional fire consultants out there we could reach out to. Councilmember Brownlee stated it might answer questions the public might have.

Mayor Mathews asked to take a break from the discussion to allow Doyt Sheets to take Council photos.

Mayor Mathews reported that she had visited with other officials and had reached out to Mayor Heidemann of Corinth and as a result was able to discuss the fire contract with Councilmembers Glockel and Harrison. Mayor Mathews is concerned about the “apples to apples” assessment. Mayor Mathews stated the City has ownership in the equipment of the Lake Cities Fire Department through years of paying into the service. Mayor Mathews does not believe the two departments are comparable and does not see the need for a consultant to compare the two departments. She has concerns that there are things missing from the financials that could result in hidden costs. She also has concerns with only one engine being in the community. Mayor Mathews has renegotiated the contract with Corinth, asking for a lowering of the percentage used and the removal of expenses not yet incurred such as the station not yet opened, the firemen not yet hired, for a potential savings of approximately \$289,000 over a 5 year term, not including monthly credits received for expenses not yet incurred for the proposed Station #3 and 3 new firefighters.

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Mayor Mathews said Lake Cities Fire did negotiate. The new set of figures was provided by their committee and will be recommended to their Council if the City of Lake Dallas is interested in pursuing a contract. Mayor Mathews would like Staff to look into a Fire Control Prevention and Emergency Medical Service District. She would like to know if what we spend on fire services can be augmented by a local sales tax. Mayor Mathews feels the City of Lake Dallas has invested in the Lake Cities Fire Department and should continue in what has been established.

Councilmember Nolan asked what would happen if Corinth City Council does not approve the new figures. Mayor Mathews stated she believes if Lake Dallas acts with expediency that will not be an issue. Councilmember Forgey asked why the City of Corinth was willing to renegotiate with Mayor Mathews when they would not negotiate with the city administrators of Hickory Creek, Shady Shores, and Lake Dallas. Mayor Mathews believes she was able to renegotiate with Corinth because she approached them through the Mayor as a representative of the City in a professional manner rather than in a group. She believes it is the responsibility of each City and their officials to negotiate for their cities individually as each city has individual needs. Councilmember Forgey believes that Council should negotiate as a team and said he would have liked the opportunity to meet with Corinth officials to negotiate the contract, but Lake Dallas, Hickory Creek, and Shady Shores had been told this is the offer, take it or leave it. Mayor Mathews stated she did not accept that. Councilmember Forgey said they did not accept that either and that is what led them to DCESD. Mayor Mathews said people will die if you make a mistake. Councilmember Forgey took issue with that and stated that DCESD has certified firefighters and they train other groups. Mayor Mathews believes someone will get hurt if the plan with DCESD is put in place and fails. Councilmember Ray asked what happens to the current firefighters at the Lake Dallas station if Lake Dallas goes with the District and Mayor Mathews said they would be moved to Station #3 and the building of Station #3 would be expedited. Councilmember Forgey believes this is why we need to contract with an outside consultant to look at both contracts and tell us what is best. He is also concerned Corinth may decide in a few years that they do not want to provide fire services for Lake Dallas, Hickory Creek, and Shady Shores and then the cities will be faced with providing for their own services on short notice. Councilmember Brownlee feels the Mayor has analyzed this contract from a business perspective and presented it for discussion and opened it up to be looked at a little differently. Councilmember Forgey felt this meeting was to be about bringing the new Council up to speed with the information the Board had researched. Councilmember Forgey feels it was a mistake that Lake Dallas ever turned its fire department over to another city. Councilmember Price asked if the numbers Mayor Mathews had received were based on all three cities or would they be different if the other two cities pulled out. Councilmember Ray believes Council needs to be unified and not fight amongst themselves. She is not convinced that we need to change; she is concerned of the problems the change would bring. But, she does believe at some time we need to stand on our own two feet. She stated she needs more time and information. Councilmember Brownlee thinks that the work Mayor Mathews has done has brought a lot more options to consider and thinks staying with what we have is a better option. Councilmember Forgey would like to hire a professional consultant to alleviate all the questions and give an independent, unbiased opinion. Councilmember Price agrees with Councilmember Forgey that it would be beneficial to hire an independent consultant or at least find out the cost for one. He would also like to have a joint meeting with the other cities. He likes the idea of sharing services as a small city, but also has concerns with Corinth having more control. Councilmember Nolan agrees with Councilmembers Forgey and Price that the City engages an independent consultant. Councilmember Ray is in agreement with a consultant. Mayor Mathews believes exploring the cost and scope of services for a consultant would be wise. Interim City Manager will seek out a price for services of a consultant and see if he can coordinate a joint meeting with Hickory Creek and Shady Shores.

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H. ITEMS REQUESTED FOR FUTURE COUNCIL AGENDAS

None

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mathews adjourned the meeting at 9:40 pm

Andi Nolan

Andi Nolan, Mayor Pro Tem



Joni Vaughn

Joni Vaughn, City Secretary