

**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES WERE ADOPTED AT THE AUGUST 23, 2018 CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING. MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2018  
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

The budget work session was called to order by Council Chairman Madden at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** John Keller, Laure Sica, Clay Madden, David Ellis

**ABSENT:** Mike Pulaski

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Villere, Frank Oliveri, Finance Director; David deGeneres, Director of Public Works, Paul Harrison, Asst. City Attorney, Chief Sticker and Louissette Scott, Planning Director

Mr. Madden started the meeting going back to the capital budget. There were questions regarding the relocation of the dispatchers and Mr. Rodney Hart, executive director of the communication district is here to answer any questions.

**911 Call Center:** Mr. Hart explained 911 was created in the 1980's. Prior to this all calls were routed through a seven digit phone number and was forwarded to the respective agencies via trunk lines. In 2015 the 911 board decided to discontinue paying rent for occupancy in the Old Courthouse and build a 911 facility near the Parish EOC center in Lacombe. This would enable 911 to have their own free standing center instead of maintaining centers and equipment at 8 different sites. The new facility will be paid for by 911. If a community does not want to move to the 911 center, they will have to pay for all of their equipment and other PSAPS which are currently covered by 911.

Mr. Madden thought this was a mandated move. He understands if the City does not move to Lacombe we would have to pay more money but wonders if it is worth the money to ensure better response time and security for residents. Mr. Hart stated the response time will not change from answering the call to dispatcher response. However, the center is not in control of the response time from dispatcher to police.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mihalik wanted to ensure if the COM dispatchers would be able to retain their PSAP status for COM residents. Mr. Hart replied the trunk lines are directed to the computer you are logged into. A COM dispatcher log in ties directly to their City trunk lines so only COM dispatchers will receive COM calls.

Mrs. Doris Hunter stated according to the rules you must have two people to answer 911 calls. MPD will only have 6 dispatchers and they would need 8 to satisfy these rules. Chief Sticker stated currently when COM dispatchers take a break a MPD officer fills in for them until their return. At the 911 center this will be replaced with a STPSO officer. Mr. Charles Simoneaux stated current practice when someone comes to the building dispatchers view them through a monitor and can buzz them into the building. This will be the same in Lacombe. Mrs. Sharona Bienvenu commented the cameras routinely go down and the building is often used for custody exchanges.

Mr. Pulaski would like to know how we can address the vacancy in the building if the dispatchers are in Lacombe. Chief Sticker replied someone is there most of the time. The mayor commented what is the likelihood that something would happen. Mr. Ellis stated they could be some workarounds but is still concerned about going from full service to little or nothing after hours. Moving does sound like a better deal cost wise, but he would like to see someone stationed in the building for at least the first year. Mr. Keller commented in a perfect world a hybrid test would be ok but the cost is a major factor. If we join now we would avoid a larger cost if we choose to join at a future date. Mr. Pulaski asked Mr. Oliveri if the budget presented includes money only for the relocation and not to stay in Mandeville. Mr. Oliveri stated the budget does not consider dispatchers staying local; everything included is for the relocation to Lacombe.

**OPERATING BUDGET:**

**Mayor and Director Salary:** Mrs. Sica stated she is still waiting on more information regarding the mayor salary. She would like a separate ordinance like it is stated in the charter which identifies salary

and all benefits similar to the Covington mayor ordinance. She would like to propose no salary increase until the next term of office, similar to the council. Mr. Harrison read part 3.04 of the charter regarding mayor compensation and stated the mayor's salary needs to be clear at the time of qualifying so a candidate running for office knows the pay. Mrs. Sica agrees and reiterated a separate ordinance would make this very clear instead of having to search through the budget. Mr. Harrison will research with Mr. Deano if the council can reduce the salary for the mayor position and other viable options. Mrs. Sica feels the position is well compensated but the City needs to get control of the increasing salary for the future. Mr. Keller agrees and would like to address this issue since the current mayor is term limited. Mr. Oliveri will do a separate page in the budget for mayor compensation.

Mr. Madden made a motion to make the mayor's total compensation package the same as last year. Mr. Keller commented we have the issue of changing health care so he needs to be the same as employees for those benefits. Mrs. Sica made a motion to not increase the salary for the mayor, city sponsored health insurance with the same contributions to employee and dependent premiums as is afforded other full-time City employees, and car allowance and cell phone will be the same as last year; this was seconded by Mr. Ellis. Mr. Keller is concerned that the Public Works director salary will be very close to the mayor's salary. Mrs. Sica commented salaries vary from city to city and some directors make more than their mayor because of job duties and longevity. Mr. Keller is worried if we freeze the mayor salary because it is too high that's ok, but if we say the salary is getting out of control and should be reevaluated every four years because it is an elected position, this is conflicting. He is in favor of a raise this year for the mayor since the council did not grant one last year. A vote was taken the motions to freeze the mayor salary for this year passed 4-1 (Keller against)

Mr. Madden stated the mayor sent an email requesting an increase for the Cultural Director's position. Mr. Oliveri stated the budgeted increase is 2.5% and the request from the mayor is for 10%. This would bring the pay from \$65,431 to \$71,431. Mr. Madden made a motion to accept the change, seconded by Mr. Ellis. With no further comments, a vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Sica had some questions regarding the police department SRO's. The council agreed to the 4 SRO positions and she had heard the administration is thinking of not hiring all 4. The mayor stated they funding is still under review and right now he is operating with 2 SRO's. If this does not work, he will consider hiring the additional SRO's in the future.

Mrs. Sica requested to amend the Planner I position from 3 employees to 2 because the new planner position has different job duties and add a Planner II position with a salary of \$50K. He did request the motions be separated because they are two different issues. Mrs. Sica made a motion to add a Planner II with an approximate salary of \$50K; this was seconded by Mr. Keller. Mr. Madden inquired what has changed since this was denied last year. He has not heard of a need from his constituents. Mr. Keller stated the new planner is needed because we have gotten behind on some things such as annexations and the department needs help. A vote was taken and the motion passed 3-2 (Ellis and Madden against). Mrs. Sica made a motion to remove one position from the Planner I position to reflect 2 positions; this was seconded by Mr. Keller. A vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Madden suggested council arrive at 5pm before the start of our next council meeting to finish the budget. With no objection, the budget meeting will continue at 5pm on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Keller made a motion to adjourn the meeting; this was seconded by Mr. Ellis. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

  
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Kristine Scherer  
Council Clerk

  
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L. Clay Madden  
Council Chairman