

Jasper County Board of Commissioners

City of Monticello

City of Shady Dale

July 12, 2022

Joint Work Session Minutes

2:00 P.M.

Commissioner Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

County Members Present: Chairman, Bruce Henry; Don Jernigan; County Manager, Mike Benton, County Clerk, Sharon Robinson, Sheriff, Donnie Pope

City of Monticello Present: Mayor, Gail Harrell, Mayor Pro Tem, Doug Currie, and Councilwoman, Jenny Murphy.

City of Shady Dale Present: Mayor, Larry Champion, City Clerk, Joan Champion, and Councilman, Michael Rousseau.

Negotiating Discussion:

Sheriff Donnie Pope opened the meeting in prayer.

Chairman Henry asked who was ready to make a presentation.

Mayor Harrell noted that the City of Monticello is ready to sign with the same percentage or 30%.

Mayor Champion noted they would like to request 5% due to the increase in population and city limits and to assist with road paving and water department.

Chairman Henry noted the county is looking at it a little different; noting that the county is now having to do the policing in the city through the Sheriff department, and had to assume court.

Mayor Harrell noted she is going on the advice of the consultants that did the work before who advised her that law enforcement cannot be used as a talking point against the City of Monticello.

Chairman Henry noted it is fact that the county had to raise the millage rate 2% to cover what the City of Monticello had been covering in terms of police protection when these negotiations were going on 10 years ago and dropped it a year and a half later.

Chairman Henry reviewed the 2018 Service Delivery Strategy, noting the county is caring the bulk of the load and feels the county should be getting more than they are getting.

Councilwoman Murphy noted the City of Monticello produces most of the revenue.

Mayor Harrell noted they just made their contract with Brown Pelican and they are getting them everything they need for negotiations.

Commissioner Jernigan questioned if the city is paying their fair share for the services they are getting; the county is having to spend more money.

Mayor Pro-Tem noted every citizen in Monticello is paying county taxes, so we are paying the same fair share as every county resident.

Chairman noted if the county is going to do things within the cities and work with the cities; the county is going to need more funding.

Councilwoman Murphy asked if the county has a number they are proposing.

Mayor Harrell asked what number the county is proposing.

Chairman Henry noted he has not discussed the number yet; he feels we should go with 80% to county; 15% to Monticello; and 5% to Shady Dale.

Mayor Harrell noted we might as well just go to mediation because there is no way the City will agree to that.

Commissioner Jernigan stated why not just consolidate government and be done with it.

Mayor Harrell noted there have been a lot of people that have asked to do that.

Councilwoman Murphy noted then you will have to take over our utilities.

Commissioner Jernigan noted we can just sell them off.

Mr. Benton noted one of the core things of the LOST is to provide ad valorem relief on citizens receiving the services.

Mayor Harrell noted 15% is not doable for the City. The City has added several new businesses.

Chairman Henry noted we are on a tight schedule we are down to less than 50 days.

All agreed to cancel the meeting for Thursday, July 14th.

Chairman Henry noted when we get together on Tuesday, July 19th; we will all share what we got.

Mayor Champion noted that Shady has had a lot of businesses added as well.

Chairman Henry closed the Work Session at 2:41 p.m.

Bruce Henry, Chairman

Sharon S. Robinson, Clerk