## City of West Orange Monday, January 4, 2021 Workshop Session

West Orange Community Center 2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)
West Orange, Texas
1:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Roy McDonald Shirley Bonnin Randy Branch

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** 

Brent Dearing Michael Shugart, Sr.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter Chris Leavins Mike Stelly

**OTHERS PRESENT:** 

Dan Perrine

## **Call to Order**

Mayor McDonald called the workshop to order at 1:05 p.m.

## Workshop

The mayor stated that the purpose of this workshop was to discuss specifications for a new fire truck, however no action would/could be taken.

Chief Stelly reported that Mrs. Melinda Smith, the City's grant administrator representative from Traylor & Associates, sent two sets of specifications from other entities that were sent out for bids last year. Mayor McDonald also had a set of specifications that he shared with those present that were sent to him by Council Member Shugart, who stated that these specs had been put together by the City's Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin asked what the difference was in a custom chassis versus a commercial chassis. Council Member Branch responded that he understands a custom chassis is safer for the occupants of the truck. Mayor McDonald added that the custom chassis is built from 3/16" aluminum and is welded. A commercial truck is heavy-duty, but not 3/16" thick. Chief Stelly stated that there is approximately a \$200,000 difference in the cost of a custom chassis versus a commercial chassis.

Chief Stelly explained that the Requests for Proposals cannot be "brand-specific" as far as parts, equipment, etc. as they will go out to different vendors and they can bid on their own brand as long as it meets, or exceeds, bid specifications. The mayor stated that he is of the opinion that we should give our specs to the grant administrator and have them should go out for bids on both a commercial and a custom chassis. Chief Stelly asked the mayor which set of specifications he was referring to, and the mayor responded to him to send the ones that were submitted by Council Member Shugart, as they included everything the Fire Department wants. Chief Stelly did point out, however, that there are "brand-specific" items listed in those specifications and those will have to be reworded or removed. There will also have to be HUD requirements and other grant-specific terminology added.

Chief Stelly asked that the bids specs for either chassis have a length limit added, as the fire station cannot accommodate a truck longer than 37.5'. The station is 37.5' wide right now. With the new doors about to be installed, he does not know if that width may or may not change slightly. Council Member Branch suggested that a maximum bumper-to-bumper length be set at 36'.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin stated that she feels that the City should also work within the grant funds and budget currently in place. She does not want to see the City take out a loan for this truck. Council Member Branch stated that he believes the deciding factor on the selection of a truck will be the area of service to be covered with this truck  $-3 \frac{1}{2}$  sq. miles in West Orange, with a 30 mph speed limit.

Mayor McDonald stated that in their specs, they want four seats in the back. He does not feel that this is necessary, as very seldom does more than one firefighter show up at the station at

the same time to take out a truck to the scene of a fire. Others meet him at the scene. He believes two seats in the back would be enough. This would also shorten the length of the truck, which might allow for a custom-built chassis.

Council Member Branch stated that he wants the department to have all of the equipment that they need. He added that "we went out and got a new fire chief and he has a lot of experience and we need to make sure that they know that we support what they are trying to do." He added that he is not opposed to spending an additional \$200,000 on a truck if it is necessary.

Mayor McDonald then stated that he felt that this meeting could be summarized by stating that Council is not opposed to a custom cab; we do want a good fire truck that is suitable to take care of the situations of the city; we can give to our grant administrator the specifications that we desire on the truck and have her bid out both a custom and commercial chassis from each company that bids.

The next steps were then agreed upon for proceeding with this project:

- Send specifications we have to Melinda Smith to put into grant-acceptable RFP format
- Present these specifications to Council for approval
- Advertise for bids for truck
- Selection Committee either choose a bid to present to Council, or recommend that all be thrown out and process begin again
- Council vote to accept Selection Committee recommendation, review other bids or throw out all submissions and begin process over again

## **Adjournment**

With discussion being concluded, Mayor McDonald adjourned the workshop at 1:39 p.m.

Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

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