



CITY OF OVERTON

1200 South Commerce Street ★ Overton, TX 75684 ★ 903.834.3171 ★ www.cityofoverton.com

**CITY COUNCIL & RUSK COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1200 SOUTH COMMERCE, OVERTON, TEXAS.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>ATTENDED</u>
C. R. Evans Jr.	Mayor	Y
Josh Hill	1	Y
John Posey (Mayor Pro-Tem)	2	Y
Lane Schurbon	3	Y
Reggie Thompson	4	Y
Michael Paul Williams	5	Y

Staff in attendance were Interim City Manager/Police Chief Clyde Carter, Captain Gabe Wallace, Officer Bob Overman, and Finance Director/Interim City Secretary Sherry Roberts.

A. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

1. Invocation led by Mayor Evans.
2. Pledges of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem Posey.

B. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

C. BUSINESS

Discussion between the Rusk County Emergency Services District (ESD) and Overton City Council regarding the Overton Volunteer Fire Department.

The Mayor explained that everyone has handouts of revenues and expenses for the last three (3) years.

Rusk County ESD Assistant Treasurer James Dukes explained that he was the one asking questions because he had been told that the Overton Volunteer Fire Department was not receiving the funds that the ESD was giving the City. He was informed by the previous fire chief that the City was not paying for fire department needs. Mr. Dukes explained that the ESD is quick to step up anytime there was a fire department need. He also informed the group that after conversations with Interim City Manager Carter, the previous fire chief was not requesting funds from the City; he tried to find the funds elsewhere.

Mr. Dukes explained that the annual \$20,000 and quarterly run checks are payable to and given to the Overton Volunteer Fire Department and the fire department gives these funds to the City to help offset the annual fire department budget.

Rusk County ESD Board President David Burks explained that there is confusion between their reports and the City's because their fiscal year is calendar year, whereas the City's is October 1 thru September 30.



CITY OF OVERTON

1200 South Commerce Street ★ Overton, TX 75684 ★ 903.834.3171 ★ www.cityofoverton.com

Discussion was held regarding Rusk County ESD's procedures for funding the local fire departments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Posey voiced his concern regarding the logistics of issuing payments for expenses and how this will work with the audit. Discussion was held regarding these issues. Finance Director Sherry Roberts explained that the City's financial auditors would only be concerned with the expenses paid from the City budget, not expenses paid by the Overton Volunteer Fire Department from their own bank account.

The group took a break from 8:00 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Volunteer Fire Chief Robert Wall informed the Council and ESD Board that their intent was to pay their own expenses from the money received by the Rusk County Emergency Services District.

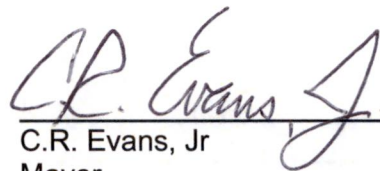
Councilmember Hill asked what happens to the ESD money given to the City when the total amount is not used by the fire department and is it returned to the General Fund. Finance Director Sherry Roberts confirmed this.

Mayor Pro-Tem Posey asked the ESD Board how long it would be before they request to be put on the ballot. The ESD Board denied wanting an election to incorporate the City of Overton into the District. Rusk County ESD Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Dooley commented that the citizens within the city limits have been receiving the services without being a member of the ESD and they will continue to receive the same services.

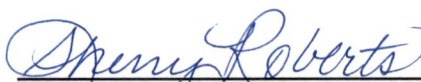
It was decided that the Overton Volunteer Fire Department will keep all monies received by the Rusk County ESD and pay their expenses from the fire department bank account. The City will continue to budget an annual amount to help subsidize the Overton Volunteer Fire Department. Members from the ESD Board agreed that most other volunteer fire departments are financially independent and do well with managing their money. Councilmember Schurbon stated that he would like to see a simple finance report with the monthly fire department report.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.


C.R. Evans, Jr
Mayor

ATTEST:


Sherry Roberts, TRMC
Interim City Secretary

