

Special-called Joint

Monday Day,

10th Day of

March

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Donna Rose E2209617K.V

At a special-called joint meeting of the Simpson County Fiscal Court and the Franklin City Commission held at the Franklin Police Department, Monday, March 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Present: Honorable Mason Barnes, Judge Executive
 Honorable Marty Chandler, East Magistrate
 Honorable Jeffrey Burr, West Magistrate
 Honorable Scott Poston, North Magistrate
 Honorable Myron Thurman, South Magistrate
 Honorable Sam Phillips, County Attorney
 Sydney Downey, Fiscal Court Clerk

Present: Honorable Larry Dixon, Mayor
 Honorable Kelly Bush, Commissioner
 Honorable Dale McCreary, Commissioner
 Honorable Jamie Powell, Commissioner
 Honorable Wendell Stewart, Commissioner
 Honorable Scott Crabtree, City Attorney
 Kenton Powell, City Manager
 Cathy Dillard, City Clerk

At 9:00 AM Simpson County Judge Executive Mason Barnes and Franklin City Mayor Larry Dixon called the special-called joint session to order and opened the meeting with prayer by Mayor Larry Dixon and pledge to the American Flag led by Judge Mason Barnes.

F-S Parks Director Lisa Deavers reported updates and future plans for the park around the community. The dog park is now open and is one of the park's top amenities right now for passive recreation. Addressing designated walking areas for the dog park, disc golf, and playground areas are the next steps for improvements for the passive park users.

The park did receive the \$30,000 grant to go towards the outdoor fitness court, Deavers thanked both bodies of government for their support making this happen. Weather permitting this project is estimated to be completed by May/Memorial Day. In the area the fitness court will be placed, the playground near it needs improvements as well. A local civic group is willing to donate to make improvements happen. After they looked at what they wanted to contribute and what all it would purchase they decided the community needed bigger. They are working on a universal playground that would be both accessible and inclusive because right now the only equipment offered at the playground is a swing designed for wheelchair users. The group has passed their first reading for \$50,000 towards the equipment the first round. If the proposal passes its second and final passage, they will be working on a fundraising plan to raise \$300,000 additional funds to go towards the purchase of more playground equipment.

F-S Parks Director Lisa Deavers announced Senior Fitness classes are still meeting Monday, Wednesday, and Friday averaging fifty people per day. This is a free service to our community at the Ag Building. She also stated that Nights of Lights continues to grow and wanted to let everyone know this attraction is solely funded by our community and the donors in the community. It's no cost to the community to come see it every year, they do accept donations.

Additional programs they are in the works of adding and improving this year: Flashlight Teen Egg Hunt as well as an egg hunt for special needs. These events will take place on April 18th. The park recently added 550sqft of sidewalk to connect walkways between some of the ball fields. New picnic shelter donated by the American Legion Post 62, located right by the Ag Building. The tennis, pickle ball courts and baseball field four need new lighting. The cost of replacing them will be around \$200,000-\$300,000, she is looking into funding for this project. There is a grant that they can apply for that might not cover 100% of the cost but it could help offset some of the expenses. The batting cages are in terrible shape and need some updates. She discussed there are plenty of areas at the park that are needing sprucing up and maintenance, she is looking into finding the funding to take care of these areas as well.

Tim Cook, who has been with the park for twenty-three years, is nearing retirement. A new maintenance supervisor has been hired to replace Mr. Cook. The new hire comes into the job with over twenty years of experience in park maintenance. She also discussed some big expenses that needed attention like the maintenance barn. She suggested it be torn down and replaced. It has been discussed with the Parks Board, and they are currently looking into quotes based off what they need in the building to fit in with their thirty-year plan. The roof of the Ag Building is going to have to be replaced as well. The Parks Board must decide if they want to put funding into repairing that building or start planning for the community center, depending on what the expense will be.

Ms. Deavers is going to need assistance with repairing some of the roads at the park, there are sections that will be back to gravel very soon if not repaired. Mayor Larry Dixon asked where the new fitness court equipment would be located, to which Ms. Deavers responded it would replace the playground set near the Ag Building and the current equipment would be relocated to another area with a walking trail.

East Magistrate Marty Chandler asked Ms. Deavers if she would wait until the complete \$300,000 was raised for the playground equipment before moving on with the project or going ahead. Ms. Deavers responded once the donated amount is approved by the civic group, they will then work on sponsor levels and how many sponsors are needed for each level for the remainder funding. They want the community to have a buy in on the equipment as well, so they plan on having community fundraisers as well. The playground will be purchased in phases based on the amounts raised, as they increase funds they will add more sections. Chandler proceeded to mention the idea of adding splash pads at multiple locations.

County Attorney Sam Phillips brought to everyone's attention the lack of communication over the years when it comes to ordinances and action taken by one body of government that the other one is not made aware of. Mr. Phillips suggests that at any time there are new ordinances on joint ventures, for example Fire & Rescue, Planning & Zoning, etc. that influence ordinances or resolutions that each side sends courtesy notices to the other.

City Attorney Scott Crabtree apologized for not sending Fiscal Court notice that they had passed the ordinance to change the location of joint meetings. He stated he will forward any ordinance that might be passed along to Fiscal Court to the extent he remembers to do it. He will also keep City Clerk Cathy Dillard in the loop to help him remember to do so.

County Judge Executive Mason Barnes discussed board appointments based on the area of residency. He asked if the city and county would try to stick to city members inside of city limits and county members outside of city limits when they make suggestions of members. Mayor Dixon asked what boards he was making a reference to; Judge Barnes responded that the Industrial Authority Board and Planning & Zoning Board have members that are appointed by the city and do not live within city limits. Mayor Dixon stated he did not think it mattered where they live as we are all citizens of Franklin Simpson County, especially if they own land or a business in Franklin. Commissioner Wendell Stewart agreed with the Judge, he said he assumed appointments to boards were determined on where you lived but he can also see how hard it can be to get people to serve on boards and you need to get the positions filled.

Fire Chief Leslie Goodrum presented the need for self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. These are air packs that the firefighters wear on their backs so they can breathe. The company they use to receive these from has rescinded their certification and no longer wanted to be in the air pack market. The packs the department are currently using will be obsolete in May/June and will no longer be able to be used. They did apply for a FEMA grant for full replacement, they did not receive that grant for forty-three units. A new grant process opened with the help of BRADD, they asked for twenty-one or twenty-three units this round and are still waiting on a response back. Due to the process for that grant not starting until September, they need \$125,000 now to get them roughly ten units and the associated equipment they need to operate. Having reached ten units this allows the Fire Department to operate safely and get their base units out the door. It will take between twelve to sixteen weeks for the new packs to come in and the current ones that are being used will expire around then too, so they must act fast.

Motion by McCreary Second by Bush Yes-All
 Approve Fire Chief Leslie Goodrum request for SCBA funding and commit to cover the cities portion upon receiving the proposal.



ORDERS

SIMPSON COUNTY FISCAL

COURT

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Motion by Chandler Second by Thurman Yes-All
 Approve Fire Chief Leslie Goodrum request for SCBA funding and commit to cover the counties portion upon receiving the proposal, and authorize the County Judge Executive to sign any necessary documents

Fire Chief Leslie Goodrum returned to the podium to propose the idea of an additional firefighter being added to their staff. Both governing bodies said they would look more into it during budget planning for the upcoming fiscal year.

East Magistrate Marty Chandler expressed his concern about placing debris in flood zones on HWY 1008. City Manager Kenton Powell stated the area is zone I2 and the area has quickly grown since last May. They are in the process of figuring out a plan. Pictures were sent after the flooding showing the debris on the edge. Mr. Powell mentioned there had not been any communication with the business prior to the issue being addressed at the meeting.

Judge Barnes discussed amending the current interlocal agreement regarding Planning & Zoning or getting out of it entirely as it is stated currently. There was no intent in any of the back-and-forth emails between both governing parties that there was a need for change in how the Planning & Zoning department should be run, and more so how an P&Z employee should be held to the standards of the County Administrative Code Book like all other county departments; as they are considered to be a county employee per the interlocal agreement.

City Attorney Scott Crabtree said he wrote the proposal for the City Commission; it wasn't for the Planning & Zoning Commission to run the whole operation. They would just manage the employees and everything else would operate the way it does currently, eliminating the article in the agreement that says County Judge and City Manager would be over the P&Z employees. The Planning & Zoning fee revenues would cover the operational cost unless there is a shortfall then it would be split 50/50 among the two governing bodies. He believes there is wisdom in that proposal because the members are appointed by both bodies, and they are very closely aligned with some of the P&Z employees because they work with them twice a month.

City Commissioner Dale McCreary asked who decided the Planning & Zoning department had to be under the city or county, in which Mr. Crabtree stated for auditing purposes they had to. Judge Barnes passed around KRS 100.117 for them to review. He mentioned it fell under the county because the city government doesn't have jurisdiction outside the city limit, whereas the county does over everything. If a city desires to establish a Planning & Zoning unit, they can only do so with the agreement of the county deciding not wanting to be a part of it. Mr. Crabtree disagreed and stated the KRS was created for regionalization of Planning & Zoning.

Mr. Crabtree stated the purpose of the proposal was to take politics and personalities out and allow the board to be over the employees. Judge Barnes replied, what the city commission had mentioned in their proposal about taking names and positions out of the thought process and instead thinking about the management structure only. Barnes said he would agree if you took all names out, there is not one thing wrong with the management structure that they currently have. Crabtree questioned Judge Barnes as to why they are proposing to change the interlocal agreement then. Barnes then answered the city doesn't like who is overseeing the management structure and his only proposal was for the county to have the ability to deal with county employees like they deal with every county employee per the administrative code. He also stated, the thought they are going to turn the decision making of Planning & Zoning over to eight board members rather than two governing bodies, and you're going to take the politics out of it is almost a laughable concept because the board members are all appointed by the city and the county. As soon as they start receiving the kind of calls he gets at least on a weekly basis they're going to be ringing Magistrates & Commissioners off the hook saying this is not what they signed up for.

Judge Barnes encouraged the City Commission to talk to all employees in the Planning & Zoning Department before making any motions.

Also of note, the City's minutes show "Alternatively, Barnes proposes an interlocal agreement that does not include a planning and zoning administrator position..." this is incorrect and was never stated during the meeting.

Motion by Dixon Second by McCreary Yes-Dixon, McCreary, Powell, Stewart No-Bush
 Approve the personnel proposal regarding restructuring Planning & Zoning sent from the City Commission to the Simpson Fiscal Court by letter dated February 26, 2025, and authorize the city and county attorneys to draft the revised interlocal agreement to present to bodies for final approval.

Motion by Barnes Second by Chandler Yes-Barnes & Chandler No-Burr, Poston & Thurman
 Have discussion and come up with a plan before deciding interlocal agreement revisions regarding The Planning & Zoning Department.

The County's motion was tabled after a lengthy discussion.

Motion by Powell Second by Bush Yes-All
 Go into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) discussions which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee. (10:45AM)

Motion by Chandler Second by Burr Yes-All
 Go into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) discussions which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee. (10:46AM)

Motion by Powell Second by Stewart Yes-All
 Come out of Executive session. (11:25 AM)

Motion by Chandler Second by Burr Yes-All
 Come out of Executive session. (11:25 AM)

No action was taken.

Motion by Powell Second by McCreary Yes-All
 Motion by Thurman Second by Poston Yes-All
 Adjourn. (11:30 AM)



COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE