

CITY OF FORNEY

ORDINANCE NO. 22-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORNEY, TEXAS, ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 7, 2022, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE ADOPTION OR REJECTION OF THE ADOPTION OF TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 143, MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE, FOR THE POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS OF THE CITY OF FORNEY; DESIGNATING THE PLACES AT WHICH SAID ELECTION IS TO BE HELD; APPOINTING THE EARLY VOTING CLERK; PROVIDING FOR POSTING AND PUBLICATION OF NOTICE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 ayes, 1 nay [Powers] and 1 absent [Chambers].

2. Discussion regarding proposed bond projects.

Mayor Lewis stated that after further conversation with City Management, our Fire Chief and first responders, it is apparent that some of the Public Safety elements of the bond need to be acted upon now. I will ask Chief Briggs to come up and elaborate but want to point out there is necessary action that needs to occur tonight.

As we know, the location of Fire Station #1 in relation to the train and the lack of space in Fire Station #2 are major concerns. Just note - these are our only two stations responsible for providing service for 80 square miles in and around Forney otherwise known as the Emergency Services District (or "ESD").

Public Safety and Roads goes without saying as top priorities of the residents, and we as a Council is the responsible party to be the driving force to get them prioritized and completed - even ahead of the curve if necessary. The proposed bond had three public safety improvements:

- 1) a New Fire Station #1
- 2) expansion of Fire Station #2 and
- 3) a new Fire Station #3

The first problem the Forney Fire Department faces is the # of resources we currently have vs the # of service calls it responds to. Our fire department currently responds to each and every call regardless of severity. A discussion around how to best service 911 calls is still occurring and not finalized. In lieu of throwing more resources at a problem without a conversation around expanding Dispatch does both a disservice to our residents and its taxpayer dollars.

Staff has requested that there be a reevaluation of Fire Station #1 - including but not limited to adding additional Dispatch. The Fire Station #1 design as presented does not have adequate space, and I am not comfortable with the likelihood that the City would need to go back to the taxpayers at a later date or issue debt to make additions to Fire Station #1 because it was not designed and built for the proper growth. In the interim, while a redesign is evaluated, the Fire Department would add a company, engine, and equipment on a separate location on the southside of the tracks on an interim basis. When Fire Station #1 is satisfactorily re-designed and built, all these resources would then relocate to the new station. Delaying this portion of the bond is sufficient as long as we have the new resources started in the interim.

Second, the expansion of Fire Station #2 is satisfactory with management and should start immediately. Please note that a delay to the November ballot adds at least a year to its completion.

209 The public safety prioritization is our responsibility and should be done sooner rather than later.
210 It is in the best interest that there be a re-design of Fire Station #1, implementation of additional
211 resources at a separate temporary location, and immediately begin work on Fire Station #2. I am
212 going to ask Chief Briggs to come up to the podium at this time for discussion, but I am first going
213 to make a motion to revisit the design of Fire Station #1, add resources at a separate temporary
214 location for the interim, and immediately begin the work necessary to expand Fire Station #2. The
215 additional firefighters, equipment, and engine as the 'interim solution' is estimated at \$1.3M and
216 Fire Station #2 construction cost has been presented at \$6.7M for a total of \$8.0M. The funding
217 would be our current unencumbered funds.

218
219 During discussion, Chief Briggs addressed the Council and spoke to the necessary action for the
220 expansion of Fire Station #2. He stated that he thinks this is one of the quickest on the bond to
221 give them the ability to hire and house more employees, which provides more resources to answer
222 calls. Second, Chief Briggs stated that the whole bond package is an amazing opportunity for
223 public safety, but the timing of the bond election creates a significant delay in any realized
224 improved service delivery because of the amount of time it takes to order a fire truck, hire people,
225 and build brick and mortar buildings. There is a need for creative interim solutions while the bond
226 package proceeds. Partnering with the District Board is an option to provide temporary housing
227 and make that a functional fire company location on the south side (near FM 741) sooner than
228 waiting on the bond to get the new Fire Station #1 built. Lastly, the call volume has increased
229 significantly for both fire and police. With the new projections from the school district, the dispatch
230 component is integral to long term success. Chief Briggs wants to look at different options for
231 allowing the growth of dispatch to help manage the increased calls for service, and therefore
232 would like to look at the design to make sure we aren't missing anything long term and make sure
233 the building will serve the needs for the City for the next 25 years.

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235 After discussion, Mayor Lewis restated her motion to revisit the design of Fire Station #1, add
236 resources at a separate temporary location for the interim, and immediately begin the work
237 necessary to expand Fire Station #2. The additional firefighters, equipment, and engine as the
238 'interim solution' is estimated at \$1.3M and Fire Station #2 construction cost has been presented
239 at \$6.7M for a total of \$8.0M. The funding would be from our current unencumbered funds.
240 Council Member Salgado seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes and 1
241 absent [Chambers].

242 243 **VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

244 THE CITY MANAGER WILL DISCUSS CURRENT CITY ACTIVITIES, UPCOMING MEETINGS,
245 FUTURE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION,
246 INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

- 247 • Department Reports (Fire, Police, Municipal Court, Finance)
- 248 • Citizen Complaints – Actions taken or to be taken
- 249 • Upcoming Special Events
- 250 • Personnel Changes
- 251 • Commendations
- 252 • Public Works/Streets Projects, Repairs or Construction
- 253 • Park Issues
- 254 • Inspection Issues
- 255 • CIP Projects

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258 City Manager Daniels welcomed Chief Eudy back from medical leave. Daniels stated that budget
259 planning would start on March 1.
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