

Mayor Nanette K. Johnston opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. on August 21, 2018, at City Hall located at 8880 Clark Avenue, Parkville. In attendance were aldermen Greg Plumb, Douglas Wylie, Brian Whitley, Philip Wassmer, Tina Welch, Dave Rittman, Bob Lock and Marc Sportsman.

The following staff was also present:
Joe Parente, City Administrator
Kevin Chrisman, Police Chief
Alysen Abel, Public Works Director
Stephen Lachky, Community Development Director
Matthew Chapman, Finance/Human Resources Director
Melissa McChesney, City Clerk
Anna Mitchell, Assistant to the City Administrator
Chris Williams, City Attorney

1. GENERAL AGENDA

A. Overview of Platte County's Proposed Public Safety Sales Tax

Dagmar Wood, Platte County Commissioner, provided an overview of the proposed public safety sales tax. Ballot language would be included in the April 2019 election. The sales tax would be a combination of a one-half of one cent public safety sales tax to build a new jail that would be built adjacent to the jail and connect the courts. The Sheriff's Office would be housed in the new jail and the old building would be remodeled and would include the county prosecutor and courts.

Wood highlighted the reasons a new jail was needed and why a sales tax was the best option. She said that the jail was full and there was not a funding mechanism to build a new one. Inmates were housed by classification (e.g. non-violent not housed with violent) and some cots were on the floor because there were not enough beds. In addition to a full jail, Wood stated that the prior county commission backstopped bonds for Zona Rosa and the December 1, 2017, payment was short. The property owner did not renew the line of credit and Platte County was responsible for the remaining amount.

A new jail was estimated to cost approximately \$43 million and would include 336 beds. Wood said that Platte County was looking into a partnership with Kansas City, Missouri, for upfront capital for the building in exchange for housing some of their inmates to pay back the debt.

Discussion focused on privatization, using bonding capacity instead of a new sales tax, future plans for the stormwater and parks sales taxes, using savings in other areas to fund the jail, how the one-half of one cent sales tax would be distributed and the reasons why Parkville residents would vote for a public safety sales tax when the City had a municipal court.

Wood stated that the County was looking at continuing the parks sales tax at one-eighth of one cent to maintain the county's facilities and would look at reducing the roads tax when it sunset in 2023. She added that the goal was to have all the sales taxes even out in several years.

Mayor Johnston stated that the City would plan a future work session to provide more information to the public.

The work session ended at 7:06 p.m.

The work session minutes for August 21, 2018, having been read and considered by the Board of Aldermen, and having been found to be correct as written, were approved on this the fourth day of September 2018.

Submitted by:


City Clerk Melissa McChesney

