

MINUTES } CITY OF PIKEVILLE

CITY OF PIKEVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 4, 1996

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Pikeville met in Special Meeting on June 4, 1996. The meeting was held in the City Hall Public Meeting Room at 260 Hambley Boulevard.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was:

1. TO CONSIDER AN AGREEMENT TO CONSOLIDATE THE PIKEVILLE LIBRARY WITH THE PIKE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM AND ANY OTHER ACTION CONCERNING THE LIBRARY BOARD AND NEW LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.
2. CONSIDER A U.D.A.G. REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FROM THE Y.M.C.A. -- \$126,689.12.

The meeting was scheduled at Noon, however, due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting was not called to order until 12:11 p.m.

Upon a quorum being present, Mayor Steven D. Combs called the meeting to order. The following Commission Members were present at roll call:

MAYOR: STEVEN D. COMBS
COMMISSIONERS: KENNY BLACKBURN
WALTER BLANKENSHIP
SHARON CLARK
EUGENE DAVIS

1. Library: Mayor Combs reported that he, Bill Baird and City Attorney Davis had worked on a revised draft agreement for a proposed county/city library consolidation. City Attorney Davis pointed out the changes in the agreement as follows:

- a. The Pike County Library Board will begin construction of a new library facility by August 1, 1997. The previous agreement stated that construction had to begin by the year 2000.
- b. The Pike County Library Board is to pursue the project diligently until completion. The square footage of the building was increased from 8,000 sq. ft. to 9,000 sq. ft.
- c. The Pikeville Public Library Board will transfer all funds which it is now holding (about \$500,000.00) to the City of Pikeville, who will hold in trust, for the specific purpose of building the new library. Transfers of funds by the City shall be made as needed for payment of construction of the new library.
- d. The Pikeville Public Library will by June 30, 1996, transfer its property to the Pike County Public Library District for the purpose of building the new library. The property will be held in trust by the Pike County Public Library District Board for the sole purpose of the new Pikeville Library Project with such trust to be terminated upon the completion of said construction project.
- e. The Pikeville Public Library Board will transfer all of its right, title and interest in and to all books, equipment and assets of the existing Pikeville Library to the Pike County Public Library District for the purpose of operating at either the existing location or other suitable location within the City of Pikeville. The Kentucky Books collection and any other books, personal property or real property donated, bequeathed or devised to the Pikeville Library shall remain at Pikeville Library.
- f. The Pike County Public Library District will agree to employ the present City employees at comparable wages to County employees if said city employees desire to be so employed.

Ed Elder asked what provisions had been made relative to retaining the services of the Pikeville Public Library Board members. It was explained that the City Library Board will serve in an advisory capacity to the Pike County Library District. Because of statutory limitations, no provisions can be made to appoint the existing members to serve on the Pike County Library Board.

Ann Carty, in an illustration, pointed out that the City had built up the Pikeville Library over the years and if the agreement is approved, the City will have no control over the operation. Mayor Combs stated the main reasons for considering the consolidation was to #1. provide a "first class, state-of-the art, facility" for the citizens of Pikeville, and #2. to utilize the state funds that are available to county libraries.

Martha Ridenour pointed out that the City Library has the property and the money with which to build the first phase of the library. In addition, the City gives an allotment to the Library each month to be used for operations. The Mayor commented that the allotment is not guaranteed. Ms. Ridenour stated that the proposed agreement provides for the City to contribute \$50,000/annually. The Mayor explained that he was trying to commit the present Commission to the project. Ms. Ridenour stated her opinion that the proposed merge should be put to a referendum. The Mayor asserted that the project will be built in the City and the City residents will benefit.

Ms. Ridenour stated that the City Library Board has no objections to the Telecommuting Center and the County constructing additions onto the City's base structure. The Mayor told the audience that if the merge is successful, the complete building can be constructed. The project stands to gain \$1/2 million in state funds and \$1/2 million in county funds. Ms. Ridenour argued that this condition is not part of the consolidation agreement. County Library District Board Member, Joe Justice, said that the county has \$600,000 to commit for the construction of a minimum of a 10,000 sq. ft. facility. Mr. Justice reported that while he was Chairman of the City Library Board, that he and Mrs. Davis applied for state assistance. He reported that the application was denied because city libraries are not recognized entities. Mr. Justice told the Commission that Mr. Nelson with the State Library says that \$250,000 can be committed this year and that approximately \$300,000 can be committed for a joint project in the next fiscal year.

Mayor Combs agreed with Ms. Ridenour on her suggestion to include the county and state appropriations to the project in the consolidation agreement.

City Library Board Member, Ed Maddox, told the Commission that the City Library Board would be agreeable to allowing the county and telecommuting center to locate with the City Library during the second phase construction. He said that he thought this suggestion was agreeable to the County Library Board District. Mr. Maddox alleged that the County Board had not discussed the commitment of \$600,000 to the project.

Lucille Smith told the Commission that the City has its own school system, taxing authority, and a variety of services. She asked why the City shouldn't have its own library and commented that if the library is centralized, what will be next?

City Library Board Member, Jeanine Owens, pointed out that while Mr. Maddox was appointed to serve as a member of the ad-hoc committee to determine the feasibility of a merge, he was not present during the drafting of either of the agreements.

Mayor Combs expressed his concern about operating funds. The majority of the operating funds come from the County. The City has no funding mechanism for the library. Ms. Ridenour asked if the City residents could vote for the levy of a tax to fund the library. The City Attorney explained there is no statute to authorize the enactment of such a levy.

Marilyn Thomas commented that the preliminaries have been completed to begin construction on a new library. She added that the City Library could complete phase I, then the County and Telecommuting Center could appropriate their funds to complete the project.

It was commented that the City Library should not have to delay its project and advised the Commission that the bids for construction of phase I are scheduled to be opened this afternoon. The urgency of moving the library to another location because of lease expiration was reiterated.

Mayor Combs reported that he had spoken with David Stratton, landlord of the current library building. Mr. Stratton told the Mayor that the library could remain in the existing location as long as two years as long as the project is progressing. Ms. Thomas pointed out that the project will not be subjected to paying the prevailing wage if the project is allowed to begin now.

Librarian, Billie Sue Davis, told the Commission that the Pikeville Public Library has a good working relationship with the Pike County Public Library District as evidenced by their annual contracts which were first approved in 1982. Mrs. Davis advised that, since directed by the City Commission, the Pikeville Public Library Board has been trying to meet with the county library district, but their efforts have been unsuccessful. Mrs. Davis voiced her opinion that the agreement, as presented, is unreasonable.

Commissioner Blankenship agreed with Mrs. Ridenour concerning her opinion that the county's monetary commitment should be included in the agreement. He reminded the Commission of the unsuccessful attempt to merge with the county for 911 services.

Commissioner Blackburn agreed that the agreement should include the county's commitment.

Commissioner Clark asked if it was the consensus of the people present that a merge is favorable if an acceptable agreement is negotiated. Most of the audience responded affirmatively.

Mrs. Ridenour expressed her opinion that the county should offer a written commitment or the matter should be placed on the ballot.

Commissioner Clark asked if the City Library Board would postpone the building project. Mrs. Davis advised that the Library Board has told her they will be proceeding with the project. Commissioner Clark stated her opinion that City residents would be best served in a regional facility involving the telecommunications center. She added that most of the individuals who utilize the city library's services are from the county, so why not take advantage of their taxing authority.

Mrs. Davis said that she had met with representatives of the telecommunications center and had extended an invitation to them to join with them in phase 2. She indicated they were interested in this concept.

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Mayor Combs reported that he had been advised of a vacancy on the Pikeville Public Library Board and nominated Bill Owens to complete the unexpired term. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Mrs. Davis told the Commission that the library's by-laws provide that two women serve on the Board. She reported that the Mayor had said he would appoint Ann Carty to serve on the board. Mayor Combs explained that he had said he would consider the appointment of Ms. Carty. In view of the provisions of the by-laws, the motion was withdrawn. The Mayor delayed making the appointment until a later date.

No further action was taken with regard to the issue of consolidation of the city/county libraries.

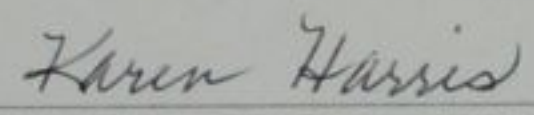
2. Presented to the Commission for approval was a reimbursement request from the Pikeville YMCA for \$126,689.12 in UDAG funds. Commissioner Blankenship made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to authorize the reimbursement of \$126,689.12 from UDAG funds to the YMCA. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Combs made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously. (Adjournment Time: 1:00 p.m.)

APPROVED


STEVEN D. COMBS, MAYOR

ATTEST:


KAREN HARRIS, CITY CLERK

