

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A JOINT WORKSHOP ON FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M.

COMMISSIONER MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: KENNY HALE, BRYAN COLLIER AND DON ADAMS. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: VICKIE KIVETT, TROY SPRINKLE, KELLY ALCALA, JASON MAXWELL, CHIP KELLER AND MELISSA GREENE; KIM MERIDETH WAS ABSENT. ALSO PRESENT WERE: DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND DAN BASTIN, COUNTY AUDITOR. ERIC RATTSS, DLZ; PATRICK DAVIS, MEYER-NAJEM; AND GREG MARTZ, GM DEVELOPMENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

DISCUSSION OF B.O.T. MASTER PLAN

Bryan Collier stated that the Commissioners have been working to address the concerns that were brought up at the Joint Meeting July 5th. The Council agreed to move forward, but mentioned concerns about the need for more space and the amount of money needed to move forward. The Commissioners were able to obtain permission from the City of Martinsville to close down Mulberry Street for 30 months. Phase I will begin in September. Patrick Davis stated that this includes removing the houses on the block and building a parking lot. The construction will need to include an underground retention area for stormwater runoff. Once the lot is complete, employees and public will be able to use the lot for parking, but will need to enter at the Main Street entrance. They are not planning on starting on the Judicial Center until May/June of 2023, in part because of the lag time in ordering steel. Once the green light is given for Phase II, they can move through the design process and put it out for bid in December/January for final approval of funds in February and the steel order can be placed.

There have been discussions with Flowers by Dewey and they seem receptive to the presented options.

Eric Ratts, DLZ, stated that they have been able to reduce the size of the Justice Center addition by 5 feet on each side without affecting the overall design. This change has reduced the cost by \$1.5 million. Mr. Ratts gave an overview of the design and showed conceptional drawings of the courtrooms. They have gone through details with jail personnel for security and with judges for sight lines in the courtrooms. Mr. Ratts stated that this is not the final design. Patrick Davis, Meyer-Najem, stated that there will be continual refinements and alternatives.

Mr. Collier stated that at the previous Joint Meeting, it was mentioned that this addition would be outgrown before they move in. The cost for an even larger building could be \$50 million. Rearranging courts allows options as the county transitions with technology. The utilization of the five courts was approximately 73% in 2021. Josh Messmer stated that this ranks Morgan County 69th on the list for an additional court. The state determines the need. Clark County is at 153%, first on the list, and has not been approved for an additional court. The design as presented allows room for growth without a third floor. The design includes six courts and the current judges have agreed that this meets their needs. DLZ designed an optional third floor without interior finishes, but that included minimal heating and cooling, fire suppression, elevators, stairs, and upgraded foundation and support for the additional floor. The additional cost for this is \$5.5 million and it will not be less expensive to add this 23,000 sq. ft. of space later. They need to know if this is something they want to do now, because the structural design will change depending on this decision. Kelly Alcala asked how much space they were netting if they vacate the current Court Services building and expand the Administration Building. Mr. Ratts stated that he would get these figures to her. Josh Messmer stated that it could be possible to use the Court Services building for the Board of Health or another department. Bryan Collier stated that he did not feel that the building met ADA standards for government purposes.

Chip Keller stated that he would like information on how this project will be paid for and the impact on the taxpayers. Vickie Kivett asked if they would be able to use some of the Rainy Day Funds. Dan Bastin stated that they could. Mr. Ratts asked that the Council and Commissioners consider the option of a third floor and report back in August if this is something that they want to consider. Melissa Greene stated that she felt it would be hard to explain why they are spending \$5.5 on a vacant shell when the economy is in the situation it is in. She also likes sticking to a plan that they have already discussed. Bryan Collier stated that they were challenged on the lack

of vision and wanted to address that. Troy Sprinkle stated that it is the cheapest way to get square footage but they have room for growth and who knows when they will need it. Mr. Collier noted that there would also be a parking issue with an additional floor of offices. Chip Keller, Melissa Greene, Troy Sprinkle, and Kelly Alcala all consented that they would not want to add a third story.

Bryan Collier asked if the Council approved moving forward with the current design. Josh Messmer stated that they would still work on refining the costs. Eric Ratts stated that any refinements would not be lowering the cost by millions.

ADJOURNMENT

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 9-0.

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Kenny Hale

Bryan Collier

Don Adams

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett

Troy Sprinkle

Kelly Alcala

Jason Maxwell

Melissa Greene

ATTEST:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

Chip Keller