

So What Ever Happened With The Public Safety Building Proposal?

It's been five months since the last public safety building bond proposal was narrowly defeated. It's been seventeen months since the previous proposal went up in flames. A few have said, "We've defeated it twice, we'll defeat it again." Some have asked, "What's the hurry? Give it some time." Others have exclaimed, "What happened to the urgency? We can't slow down now." The rest have suggested, "Proceed with thoroughness but do not unnecessarily slow or hasten the process. Consider all practical options and bring forward an affordable solution that the majority of citizens can unite on."

The optimist in me believes that fighting can end and injuries can be healed by sitting opposing parties at a table until they've "work out their differences" and jointly communicate their solution to all who've been "dragged into choosing sides."

We have received 8 proposals from engineering firms to evaluate the current condition of the old recreation center, exiting fire station, the police/court building, and the Beck home. One firm will be selected to perform a structural integrity of the facilities, what it would take to bring them up to code, and what it will cost to repurpose them for our public's safety needs.

Simultaneously, a 9 member citizen committee is being formed to study all reasonable solutions, consider the evaluations of the structural engineers, and recommend affordable solutions to the City Council for voter action.

The committee will be selected from self-identified volunteers in our community who are passionate about the issues, committed to finding solutions, and are willing to compromise with others who are equally passionate but have a different point of view. The committee will be comprised of three citizens against prior proposals, three in favor of prior proposals, and three who are neutral but can keep others honest and ask the tough questions to both sides. Attendance by committee members is mandatory. A member of the committee who misses two consecutive meetings will be replaced by an alternate. The members will be selected by the mayor from applications/interviews and approved by advice and consent of council. The mayor will chair the committee.

All meetings of the committee will be public, recorded and/or live streamed. Anyone may attend including the public, elected, and appointed officials. Most discussion will take place between the committee members. Observers will be given time at various points of each meeting to provide commenting. The judge, chief of police, and fire chief, along with other City professionals will be available to the committee as needed. Outside consulting services requiring funding will be considered and approved by the City Council. There is no set duration for this committee. There is no artificial or self-imposed date by which the work must be completed. It is anticipated that the committee will be in place for longer than a year.

Now is your opportunity to volunteer. If you are passionate about public safety facility issues, committed to finding affordable solutions, and able to spend the time required to see the project to completion, then you are needed. Please go to the **City website (PGCITY.ORG)**, or **stop into City Hall** and fill out an application. **Your community needs you.**

This is a once in a lifetime service opportunity.

Mayor Daniels