City of Fredericksburg

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020 ~ 4:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL COMMENT FORM SPREADSHEET

Gary Neffendorf, Councilmember
Tom Musselman, Councilmember
Bobby Watson, Councilmember

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<tr>
<th>Comment Form #</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Timothy Riley</td>
<td>408 E. Schubert Street</td>
<td>214-552-0339</td>
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Charlie Kiehne, Councilmember
Polly Rickert, Councilmember
Kent Myers, City Manager
I do believe in being conservative and adding to the budget early next year, when we have regained steady revenue streams. Continuing to ‘do business as usual,’ does not seem to be an option in our immediate future. I do not think our leadership has been creative enough with how we support our local economy and modeling the behaviors and efforts expected by the ‘stakeholders’ of our community. Much more should be done to understand and communicate the needs of our citizens.

The C.V.B., seems to be a good place to start reviewing how we have advertised and how we will advertise in the future to improve how we educate and communicate with tourists. The C.V.B., also seems to be the place that after 20 years of the same, albeit successful, could benefit from a detailed look on how we can make strategic changes to budget and how that budget could be better spent in our local economy.

The Chamber of Commerce has been a strong shoulder to lean on for our local businesses and has shown to be vital during this Pandemic and beyond. I’d consider giving more to the Chamber. If not money, a more key role in how ‘stakeholders’ not only come together to create data, but how we can put that data to work to create solutions. None of which has been done by the city. (For example: The ‘Task Force’ being given no real charge or mission.) The Chamber models their own solutions and represents over 900 businesses. Much more inclusion is needed.

Economic development has recently expressed that our leaders have not been upfront and realistic about the convention center project, which was no secret, showing that how the Economic Development and the city officials communicate and establish standards is not on the same level or page. This is on the leaders to hold course and develop our city even more responsibly.

Overall, every department needs to include the talents and skills of our citizens to help accomplish the tasks set forth by the majority, not just a few. Our overall mentality needs to be examined and priorities assessed more deeply to accomplish a conservative and dynamic budget that can withstand not just our current pandemic, but whatever else is to come in the future. (PATH TO THE FUTURE DOCUMENT, now on the FBGtx.org homepage.)

We all like a short and sweet meeting, but now is the time to ask more questions, allow more voices to be heard and take the conservative approach by including more new ideas, instead of the same ‘ol ‘this is how we have done it for years’ approach. Perhaps a lot remains the same, because of the success we have had, but not asking more questions and raising the standards, only sets our city up for a ‘flatline’ in the very near future.

I look forward to a thoughtful discussion today. Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Thank you,

Timothy Ellis Riley
Timothy Ellis Riley