

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

RS-16-119, 10/4/16

I do not support this consideration that proposes to relieve Dr. Farris, primarily because of a three-fold reason. First, Dr. Farris has provided the most comprehensive view of our city in my time as a member of council. She provided the view from the appropriate place, as Interim City Manager, better than the preceding City Manager who evidently preferred a piece-mill approach of conducting the business of our city, the approach evident and spanning multiple fiscal years culminating in our recent and visible predicament.

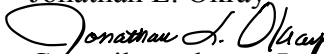
Second, the idea of replacing Dr. Farris is unfunded in the FY16-17 Budget. Replacing the Interim City Manager at any time before the appointment of a permanent City Manager was not an item of consideration discussed during the budget process or is within the scope of the City Manager search. A side note of the FY16-17 Budget is that this was the first Budget process I have been involved in, which council did not utilize an 'all or nothing approach' of preceding budgets but rather voted separate and major pieces of the budget before unanimously voting to approve the FY16-17 Budget.

Third, the proposal to relieve Dr. Farris is a short-term solution, paralleling the long-term goal to appoint a permanent City Manager. I am not willing to get sidetracked in the method agreed to by majority council. Considering to relieve Dr. Farris essentially means hiring someone temporarily and paying them, minimally, the daily rate of the current City Manager's contract that is in force, plus travel (I estimate a \$450-489 daily base rate without travel). I am not in favor of this approach or of responding and in a callous and frivolous manner with public funding. I also realize, from my experience, that our city may function without a governing body but it may not, by charter, function without a City Manager carrying out those functions that are necessary to delivering various municipal services, for even one hour. I am not part or parcel to the movement that will invariably inhibit or cripple the ability to provide adequate municipal services neither am willing to take a gamble with fiduciary responsibility to hire someone out of a pool that does not guarantee their skills, knowledge, and abilities, as the process to locate and verify candidates for permanent City Manager.

As stated previously, this consideration is outside of the scope of the search for a permanent City Manager. As the Assistant City Manager for Internal Services, Dr. Farris provides oversight of Internal Services. That is a fact. However, when the fact is put into proper perspective, at no time before her appointment as Interim City Manager, was Dr. Farris the ultimate or final authority of the City of Killeen organizational structure. That is by charter the sole responsibility of the City Manager. It is highly regrettable, awful, horrible, and terrible that the characterization of Dr. Farris' performance as the Interim City Manager has been conflated, mischaracterized, and repeatedly misrepresented. It has been a constant and concerted effort of exploitation and misappropriation of fact.

This consideration is not a prudent course of action in light of the current search for a permanent City Manager. Haste makes waste; I do not rush to make decisions of magnitude and will not act frivolously or irresponsibly with peoples' money or in matters requiring sound ethical character and principle.

Jonathan L. Okray


Councilmember at-Large