

**CITY OF KOSSE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY JUNE 15, 2020- 7:00 P.M.**

Council Members Present:

Cullen Freeman          Ronnie Funderburk          Harley Leazer          Jimmy Pate          Kelli Eno

Council Members Absent:

None

Mayor Brooks Valls opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present with all members present. Mayor Brooks Valls led with a prayer. Proper posting of the meeting was confirmed.

Mayor Brooks Valls opened the meeting explained that Chief Mark Morris has the right to a hearing in open or executive session before the vote of no confidence. Chief Mark Morris has chosen to speak in open session.

Chief Mark Morris stated he wanted to know the bases of reasoning of the vote of no confidence. Would it be the situation that occurred at Austin McCarver's house on a call. He stated that since he has been Chief, they have a city with working police department, almost zero crime rate, more revenue, and was brought in to work on the communications/dispatch service in Limestone County. The police department is now recognized. Chief Morris went into detail on the Austin McCarver incident. Chief Morris explained he Officer Robert Koch stated he was struck in the face by Austin and that he (Koch) thought Austin should be charged with a public intoxication or an assault. Chief Morris stated that he told him at the time that he did not think he should be charged. He explained he came after the incident and had to make a decision after about 2 minutes of information he gathered from the scene. He stated he did the best he could at the time to make the best decision possible. He said he spoke with District Attorney Roy Defriend and was told he made the right call and there was not sufficient evidence to make a third-degree felony arrest on Austin. Chief Morris then stated that he has no problem working with any of the council members and direction for awhile was unclear and he was under the impression he took orders from the Mayor; he had a hard time having communication with the Mayor at the time. He tried to get approval from Jarrod to order equipment but couldn't. That is why items for the car were not ordered. He stated he has no issue following the rules and did anything that he was not giving permission to do. He apologized if he had hurt anyone's feelings.

Councilman Jimmy Pate asked Chief Morris why he lied to the council about Officer Koch not get punched when that was what Officer Koch had stated in his statement. Chief Morris said he did not lie to the council and stated he never said that Officer Koch did not get punched.

Discussion and Possible action on Vote of No Confidence: Chief of Police. Jimmy Pate made a motion to vote of no confidence. Harley Leazer seconded. Cullen Freeman, Ronnie Funderburk Kelli Eno, Jimmy Pate and Harley Leazer all voted no confidence in Chief Morris. Brooks Valls told Chief Morris that he was relieved of his duties as Chief of Police effective immediately.

