

City Manager Training Report from Texas Municipal League
112th Annual Conference October 5 -7, 2022.

Per the City Manager employment agreement section 12, the *“Employee agrees to provide and turn in all receipts for such expenses and to provide the City Council with a report of what information was learned or obtained at the next reasonable Council Meeting after attending a conference or training session.”*

The training session was located. The total cost for registration was \$400 and Hotel was \$615. The City Manager did not seek reimbursement for parking, mileage, or per diem.

As part of the training, I attended the following:

October 9, 2024

- Maximize Human Potential: Win Together in a Shifting World hosted by Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., President and CEO, SHRM. In a world characterized by constant change and economic uncertainty, the true powerhouse of every organization is its human capital. However, many organizations are not leveraging the full potential of their most valuable asset – their people. We saw very shocking statistics on staff demographics and using those demographics to keep people engaged.
- Texas Emergency Management 101 hosted by Shaun Miller, Assistant Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management. In this session, the Texas Division of Emergency Management discussed what local emergency managers and city officials need to know and have ready before, during, and after disaster strikes. We will be looking at sending our emergency manager, Chris Willis, to the local emergency management academy. TDEM Disaster Portal [HTTPS://portal.tdemtexas.gov/](https://portal.tdemtexas.gov/) and available resources.
- The Future Is Here: AI Applications in Municipal Government hosted by Drew Bailey, Managing Director of Tourism and Business Development, Town of Little Elm; Dianne Connery, Development Director, Pottsboro Library. They dove into the exciting world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its transformative applications in libraries, economic development, and tourism. Gaining valuable insights into how AI can empower public libraries to serve their communities more effectively and understand how AI can optimize event planning, marketing, and recruitment to foster vibrant communities and thriving economies. I will be looking into having a chatbot utilizing AI like Otter Notebook. Possibly looking at using AI to assist with grant writing.

October 10, 2024

- A Secure Water Future for Your City- Panel discussion with Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Water Development Board; Drew Molly, Chief Operating Officer, Corpus Christi Water; Jason Afinowicz, Principal and Vice President, Freese and Nichols; and Matt Lee, Senior Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) leads the state’s efforts to ensure a secure water future for Texas and its citizens. We heard from TWDB on the water needs across the state, including current initiatives and finance programs available to cities to address local water needs. Also, the head of the City of Corpus Christi spoke about their

efforts to address water needs, including the nation's first municipally owned seawater desalination project.

- What City Leaders Must Know Regarding Active Attack Responses and Prevention hosted by Stan Standridge, Chief of Police, San Marcos Police Department -Reviewed our roles and responsibilities for the three phases of an active attack. I learned about the build-out of incident command, which includes media staging locations, reunification, the emergency operation center, coordinated press briefings, criminal investigations, 24/7 staffing and support, and much more. This is an abbreviated version of an eight-hour course that all police chiefs, sheriffs, and constables in Texas must attend. As a result of this presentation, the emergency staff will be touring schools and churches. We will also be looking at purchasing command kits and reunification kits.
- Lunch Session was Increase Your Influence by Speed Reading People by Melinda Marcus, Expert in the Science of Influence. We learned that according to research, at least 60 percent of communication is nonverbal, yet many of us are only focused on words. Influence Expert Melinda Marcus showed us how to uncover hidden insights by recognizing critical nonverbal signals that most people miss in meetings. Gaining insights from reading subtle facial expressions and body language.
- I'm Still Just A (Utility) Bill: Trends and Hot Topics for Policymakers hosted by Chief Financial Officer, NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC. I learned that the utility bill that our customers receive monthly is important for a simple piece of paper. From billing errors that have eroded public confidence in municipal utilities to new challenges for cities that provide service outside their municipal boundaries. Heard experts in the utility industry as they discussed the key issues that decision-makers need to be aware of.
- Your First Responders' Lives Are at Risk: How You Can Help, hosted by Rick Randall, CEO of The Randall Group 911. We learned about Police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, animal control officers, and code compliance officers operating in difficult environments. A culture of support for these first responders should start at the top with elected officials and city management. Learned about the types of stress that first responders face, including intrinsic dangers such as burnout, hypervigilance, depression, PTSD, and relationship issues, as well as predictable changes and challenges in a typical public safety environment. The session also covered the hidden costs of failing to direct resources to these challenges and how to develop programs that ensure our first responders have a healthy career in public safety.

October 11, 2024

- When "It" Hits the Fan: Effective Communications for Critical Times by Speaker: Gerard Braud, CSP, Fellow IEC, President, Diversified Media. We learned that whether it is a mass shooting, a natural disaster, or misconduct, you know it could happen. We learned about his five-step process and about his software.
- Leadership Lessons from Mission Control by Ginger Kerrick, Chief Strategy Officer, Barrios Technology. Ginger Kerrick will give us an insider's look at the values and culture behind NASA's ability to innovate and keep America's astronauts safe. She gave us vivid stories from her own years at the helm of Mission Control as the first Latina flight director and a 30-year veteran of the Johnson Space Center, Kerrick offered lessons from her own evolution as a leader.