



Brentwood Council looks at police, EMS facility options

By [Stephanie Hacke](#)

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Build it or renovate it — Brentwood leaders are reviewing options to house their municipal, police and ambulance services.

Council members in a 6-1 vote on Monday approved a proposal from HHS DR Architects and Engineers to study the possible use of other properties for municipal functions, at a cost not to exceed \$22,000.

Councilman Rich Schubert dissented.

Options to be reviewed include new construction or renovation of an existing building on Brownsville Road for a new police facility, demolishing the existing Civic Center and constructing a new facility for administration offices, council chambers, a community room and fitness facility and the renovation or addition to the fire station to accommodate the emergency medical services.

Council members in a unanimous vote on Monday authorized the borough manager to have Steve Barone perform a commercial property appraisal on another undisclosed site, which possibly could be considered for a location for a municipal facility. The cost of the appraisal is not to exceed \$1,500.

"I think what we're looking to do is look at options," council President Marty Vickless said.

Schubert said he has concerns about possibly demolishing the Civic Center in Brentwood Park that he believes likely is structurally sound. This also could lead to parking problems, he said.

The nearly 100-year-old municipal building fails to meet many codes, including federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, borough Manager George Zboyovsky said.

"The goal is to build the most economically feasible building, whether it's a new building or renovation," he said.

Borough officials have been looking at options for years.

"Everything came back to, this location was best," Zboyovsky said.

That was before leaders moved forward with building a 1,200-square-foot building for \$1.2 million on East Willock Road.

At one time, the Brownsville Road municipal building housed the borough's public works, library and fire company, all of which have since moved out, Zboyovsky said.

"Now we're just heating this beast of a building," Zboyovsky said, one that's literally falling apart.

Making repairs and fixing the heating and air conditioning system for the building would be costly, Zboyovsky said.

Borough council last year approved a \$5 million bond anticipation note, essentially a line of credit, Zboyovsky said. Until now, they have only drawn down on \$1.5 million of it, he said.

The borough has until July 2015 to draw on the anticipation bond, then leaders must determine how much

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they need to borrow to finish the project, Zboyovsky said.

Council members also approved a debt policy and appointed The PFM Group as an independent financial auditor, with respect to potential upcoming financing portions related to the project.

Zboyovsky said he anticipates the project will cost between \$9 million and \$10 million.

Other options would be to renovate the municipal building or build a smaller facility on the site.

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