

MAYER CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

Call Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Dodge.

PRESENT: Mayor Dodge, Council Members Boder, Butterfield, Stieve-McPadden and McNeilly

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator McCallum

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Mitten (Herald Journal), Rod Maetzold (Fire Chief), Todd Hagen (Ehlers), Mike Wollin (Sheriff's Department) and Jason Kamerud (Sheriff's Department).

1. 2020 Sheriff Department Contract

McCallum introduced this item to the Council for discussion. The Council was provided a copy of the draft 2020 contract with the Sheriff's Department.

Dodge asked if the Department offers other options besides day hour coverage. He asked if weekend and evening coverage was an option as well.

McNeilly informed that she has seen more activity on social media on the weekends regarding break ins and youth getting into trouble. She said that a lot more is happening during these times.

Butterfield agreed that there is more on social media related to weekend and evening activity. She said she would like to see more of a presence at these times.

Wollin informed that the City currently has a contract for .67 of Full Time Employee (FTE) officer. He stated that the City of Mayer and New Germany share an officer. He said that the City of Watertown has an extra "power car" in the evenings/weekends on a rotating schedule shifting between Tuesday – Friday and Wednesday – Saturday for the hours of 5 p.m. – 3 a.m.

Boder asked if the City could switch to 100% evening coverage.

Kamerud explained that the current coverage for the City of Mayer is a "town cop" model. He said that the day coverage for this model allows for more connectivity between city staff and the deputy. He said that going to just evenings would impact that connectivity.

Boder asked if some hours could be dedicated for the weekend and evening.

Kamerud stated that the position would need to maintain an attractive schedule with consistency. He explained that there would be higher turnover and less connection.

There was much discussion on the need for additional evening and weekend coverage.

McNeilly informed that she would still like to see some day coverage and additional coverage in the evening and weekend.

Boder said that would require the City to purchase another FTE.

McNeilly asked if we could work with another community for purchase additional coverage.

Wollin said that another FTE would be about \$130,000.

Butterfield stated that the current contract doesn't meet the needs of the community.

Boder said that another FTE makes sense but was concerned about the financial impact. Boder thanked the Department for being open to additional coverage.

Wollin asked if the City was open to increasing the .67 FTE coverage.

McNeilly said that the City has been working on upping the hours for years. She said that the need to do something.

Wollin stated that the City could gradually transition into additional coverage.

Dodge asked if the current deputies on night and weekends could come through town and cover the City for some hours.

Kamerud explained that there is a separation between contract policing with the municipalities and the County policing. He provided a history of contract policing and how it was established in the 1960s and how it evolved into what it is today. He explained that the general county patrol provides separate services than municipal contracts and that they are paid for separately. He explained base level services versus contract level services and how they differ.

Kamerud went into details about how communities can slowly transition into greater coverage. He said that cities are able to purchase extra coverage through additional shifts.

Boder suggested switching to a fulltime evening with the option of purchasing extra day shifts.

Wollin said that staff and the Department would have to do some research into the days that would be best to cover.

Butterfield asked if the Department would be able to cover increased coverage in the City of Mayer. Wollin said yes.

Boder asked how quickly the contract could change to have evening coverage.

Kamerud stated that by January 2020. He did state that the City already had the ability to purchase shifts nonetheless.

Dodge asked if the Community Service Officers (CSO) position was obligatory.

Kamerud said that the position is not required but that the City would lose some services.

Wollin stated that the Department would be willing to work with on a 2 year contract.

Butterfield suggested moving up to the 1 FTE with the purchasing of shifts during the day.

Dodge said that he is not against the increase, however that \$130,000 would be quite a jump from \$100,000.

Butterfield stated that the town is growing.

Dodge said he preferred a two year step to get up to a 1 FTE with possibly cutting the CSO. He asked that staff provide some additional numbers at an upcoming meeting.

Butterfield asked for the cost of a FTE without the CSO and full-time night coverage in the summer by purchasing extra shifts.

2. **Mayer Fire Station Discussion**

McCallum introduced this item for discussion. She stated that Todd Hagen was in attendance to explain the financial options for the Fire Station. She informed that the information provided in the packet and the discussion is meant to work through the budget and a timeline for the station.

Hagen provided some financial information options to the Council. He stated that the USDA loan is a good financial option for the Fire Station in that they would support Capital Improvement Plan G.O. Bonds and Referendum G.O. Bonds. It also provided low interest rates and over 40 year option.

Hagen informed that the City would see some debt fall off in 2021 which would help keep the budget stable if new debt was added for the station.

Hagen stated that educating the community on the project is key with open houses, etc.

Boder stated that he would like to see it go out for referendum.

McNeilly agreed that open houses would be good to provide information on the project and educate the community.

Dodge agreed with a referendum. He was concerned that 2020 would be too soon.

Hagen felt that 2020 would work if the City got moving on the process.

McNeilly agreed that a referendum could be done in 2020, the building completed in 2021 and in 2022 start paying off the bond.

Boder agreed to a referendum in 2020 or 2022.

3. **2020 Preliminary Draft Budget**

McCallum presented a preliminary draft budget to the Council for 2020 for their review and comments. She said that based on discussions that were had this evening, that it would change some of the numbers.

She explained the expenditures and revenues. She stated that the City will receive an increase in Local Government Aid and Fiscal Disparities.

She said that the projected tax rate so far is 53% for the preliminary. But that the Council could work it down by December.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the special work session was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Mike Dodge, Mayor

Attest: _____
Margaret McCallum, City Administrator

DRAFT