

**SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2018**

The Safety, Health, and Service Committee met Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:19pm in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre.

In attendance were Safety, Health, and Service Committee Members:
Chair, Mr. Kelly Ricklic
Mr. Dan Lanzer
Mr. Rob Maurer
Alternate, Mr. Dean Holland

Guests were:
Mayor Joel Day, President of Council Sam Hitchcock, Treasurer Tom Gerber,
Auditor Beth Gundy, Safety Director Greg Popham. Council Member Mrs. Aimee May, Councilmember
Mrs. Cheryl Ramos, Acting Clerk of Council Patti McKay, Fire Chief Jim Parrish

Committee Chair Mr. Ricklic reported that the Safety, Health, and Service Committee met Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:19 PM in Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre to discuss the following items:

Proposed Resolution 4-2018: The recommendation of the Ambulance Committee to accept the rates brought fort by the Fire Chief.

Mr. Ricklic made the following statement:

As reported by the Ambulance Committee these rates are in line with the rates that are paid for by Medicare. It's free money. We don't want to lose free money. We need every penny we can get to continue our good service here in the City.

MR. MAURER MOTIONED TO ADD RESOLUTION 4-2018 TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA WITH A RECOMMENDATION OF PASSAGE UPON 1st Reading

MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION

3 YEAS

RESOLUTION 4-2018 WILL BE ADDED TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA FOR PASSAGE UPON 1st Reading

Fire Chief Parrish made the following statement:

We have the opportunity to apply for the Safer Grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant. That's a program that is on a scale and should pay about 70 percent of the 1st couple years and then goes down from there. We would have to hire 6 people in order to have a chance at that. I talked to the Mayor and the Safety Director and we would like to have the feeling from Council which direction you want us to go. We can turn it down, but what I don't suggest we do, if we would receive the grant and hire some people with no plans to pay for them at the end of the grant period, I don't think that's good business. I know we need to cut down on the overtime and all these things, but I would hate to hire 6 people and in 5 years turn around and lay them off.

Mr. Ricklic had the following question:

You said if we do apply for the grant and receive it we could turn it down at that time?

Fire Chief Parrish had the following response:

That's correct.

When would the submit date be for this grant?

It's in February.

Mrs. May had the following question:

Would you have to hire 6 people after you receive the grant?

Fire Chief Parrish had the following response:

Yes. You have a time period after that to logistically get them hired. They pay for the salary and benefits, I believe around 70 percent.

Mrs. May had the following response:

I personally would like to see the entire plan beginning with the hiring.

Fire Chief Parrish had the following response:

There's a lot of legwork to do. I'm willing to do all that. I'm concerned if we don't have a plan after that 5 year period.

Auditor Gundy had the following question:

How long does it take for approval?

Fire Chief Parrish had the following response:

We don't know the answer to that because we're dealing with the federal government.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

I hear what Aimee's saying about a plan, I think you mean from inception. For now how we're going to even pay the 30 percent, which really is a good question because we know our tax receipts were down quite a huge amount of money, and the proposal before us now does not even put any money in Master Capital. To keep the budget then we're budgeting more carryover too. I would say at this point we don't even have the 30 percent to pay anybody, and we don't know how much it's going to cost.

Mr. Zucal made the following statement:

We have the opportunity for a grant. That does not mean we have to accept the grant. Chief Parrish is willing to do the legwork. I think that allows us to make an informed decision. I think to say "yea" or "nay" now without having good solid numbers in front of us, at least at best we can't know for sure what that's going to look like. At least an idea to increase the staffing which eventually we may need to. That's the other piece we need to look at. I feel it's worth exploring. I feel confident in Chief Parrish and he can present with us and share with us information we need to make an informed decision.

Mr. Ricklic had the following response:

I agree with you, John. I think it's worth him doing the legwork and applying for it. Meanwhile I'll get with Auditor Gundy and Chief Parrish and try to put together the best numbers we can what the benefit package costs, what the 70/30 percent is and how can it be paid. Why he's applying for it. At the end if we do get it awarded we can always say we can't afford this, but at least we know what it takes and what it's going to cost us if we do do it.

Mr. Lanzer had the following question:

If we decide not to do it will it be a blemish for future grant applications?

Chief Parrish had the following response:

I don't think so. We could always say we can't afford it.

Mr. Maurer made the following statement:

I think it's impossible to say that we don't have the money at this point, because we're paying \$400,000 in overtime a year, and let's just say it's \$100,000 to outfit a firefighter a year, our portion is \$30,000 times that by 6 that's \$180,000, so instead of paying \$400,000 in overtime we're paying \$180,000.

**Mrs. Ramos had the following comment:
And that's only for 5 years.**

**Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:
I'd like to do that, so we can make a good decision on the information I can provide. I'm willing to provide that to Council as the Chair with the Auditor and the Fire Chief and the Safety Director helping to provide that.**

**Safety Director Popham had the following comment?
We had the study that is currently being done that would give us more information and I'm almost guaranteed that it's going to refer to the issue of manpower. Secondly, over a 5 year period you're also going to have retirements within the fire department.**

**Mr. Holland had the following comment:
You can't supplant grant personnel with personnel that are retiring. Any funds that you use during the grant period, if for some reason those employees are laid off, you not only have to pay back the balance, you have to pay all that you've used. So we would be in debt to the federal government for that if for some reason the grant got interrupted. At least the application process could start and there would be plenty of opportunity for discussion.**

**Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:
I say, Chief, you apply for it. I will work with the members to try to keep Council informed. I don't want to lose an opportunity for something that can help us, rather than say "we should have done that" after the fact. I'd rather stay on the offense than on the defense.**

With no other matters to come before Committee Mr. Lanzer Motioned to Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Ricklic, Committee Chairman, Safety, Health, and Service