

**Osakis City Council – Special Meeting
Held Via Virtual Meeting Zoom
May 20, 2020
7:00 PM**

Present via Virtual meeting: Jerry Olson, Randy Anderson, Justin Dahlheimer, Laura Backes, Keith Emerson

Absent: None

Others Present: Angela Jacobson

Others Present – conference via phone: Calvin Uhl, Mark Grinstead, Corinne Becker (LELS) Rich Ransom (MAPE) Reenie Goodwin at 6:30 p.m., Greg Gottwald at 7:00 p.m.

May 20th, 2020 meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Emerson at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – All present as indicated above

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Motion by Dahlheimer, seconded by Backes, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote – Motion Carries

Project #76: Police

Chad Gulbranson was in attendance via phone.

At the last council meeting, there was some confusion on what was discussed and agreed upon with the union and in the past. Olson requested Jacobson look back at past discussions.

Council received the following:

- Meeting minutes for discussion on the past 2 or 3 cars.
- LELS Police Union Contract language.
- Police Chief Contract language.
- Expense comparison from 2015-2019.

Gulbranson stated the squad car replacement is \$8,000. Insurance concluded that the Crown Vic is totaled.

Gulbranson said that Douglas County has a fully equipped squad for sale in the amount of \$8,000. The transfer cost will be \$2,000. Forfeiture money can be used.

In the market, the cost would be about \$16,000 for this vehicle.

Olson asks – would it cost us net of deductible net. Our deductible is \$250.

Dahlheimer – Glad to be able to review the minutes. They state is it necessary to have 3 vehicles and 2 vehicles would be looked at and discussed. Looking at the budget, it costs \$8,000 or more per year to have a 3rd vehicle. If the department would have followed policy, would we need a 3rd car? And are we costing more because of that?

Gulbranson said it is a necessity. Police contract says they have a car as a benefit. 2 cars have been kept for 6 years. Can keep them 9 years with same miles and the time spent shuffling cars back and forth for the officer to get the car.

Dahlheimer stated that Police #109 states that leaving city limits you must log why leaving city limits and the mileage on the car.

Dahlheimer asked if we know how many miles are put on the car when it is out of town.

Gulbranson said that on-calls haven't been keeping track of mileage.

Council talked about the cost for maintenance. We spend money to accommodate that. City is paying \$8,000 to accommodate.

If the police vehicles are at city hall, it takes away from resources that can be spent to help city move forward.

Gulbranson should review and make change to the policy for take home vehicle to use on call outs.

Grinstead stated he lives 7.8 miles from city limits.

Backes stated this is not comparing apples to apples, but questioned why we didn't worry about a \$15,000 loss at the Liquor Store, and we did not have a lot of discussion about that, but the police car is a good value for the money being spent and we don't want to do it.

Dahlheimer – wants accountable and up to date policy in the future.

Gulbranson commented that at Budget time, Capital Outlay may need to increase. It did not increase last year but we will need to replace equipment.

The Union and policy states it is a benefit and could be discussed with the Union in negotiations. There can be open discussion during that time.

Dahlheimer – in my opinion – it doesn't count as past practice every time a car comes up. It is discussed and budgeted what can be used and what is affordable.

Corinne Becker – there on case examples – cannot take away car utility. This is a past practice and does past the test of being a past practice.

Rich Ransom stated that if the chief allows them to take home the car, this is a policy of the department.

Dahlheimer noted that the council can change the policy.

Ransom – They use the car if needed to respond to calls and protect residents.

Olson said that we need to be accountable to spend money wisely.

Grinstead said that he took his job in 2016. Was able to take the vehicle home and had a good schedule. Now the good schedule is gone. We are using drug forfeiture money that I made by working here. I saved lives and I am sure families would like to see this coming from the city.

Dahlheimer said this is a poor comparison because you saved a life you should spend the extra to have a car. In 2017, discussion was held about the remarks of the 3rd car. Not a punishment, just have to do our job and review cost effectiveness.

Anderson – Supervisor Gulbranson presented it and it falls in the budget. Anderson feels it should be allowed.

Motion by Backes, seconded by Anderson, to purchase a vehicle for a cost of \$8,000 from Douglas County as presented. Roll Call Vote – Against: Emerson, Olson For: Backes, Dahlheimer, Anderson Motion Carries

Gulbranson will get an example of the graphics for the next meeting.

Will look at the language in the union policy at negotiations.

Gulbranson informed the council of the property clean ups. The department will work on those that need to be done.

Robbie Schultz's building was demolished and is building a new house on Nokomis Street West.

Gulbranson said that Mark Harren inspected a property and will have his assessment at the next meeting.

Project #60: Rental Ordinance

Gulbranson talked about the ordinance with Harren and will get together with Dahlheimer to review.

It was discussed that the people can't afford to clean up.

Anderson asked if we can help them get rid of the house and look for city funds to help.

Jacobson stated that we have a Housing Grant Program for demolition but to help with the rest, the EDA may have more resources than the city does.

Gulbranson stated that this person has a hard time on dealing with this and would like to see how we can help.

Project #24: Liquor Store

Reenie Goodwin was in attendance via phone.

Goodwin informed the council of the following:

- The ATM was hardwired in and they had to cut the wires, so it was not shut off.
- Off-sale is \$62,000 up from last year at this time.
- The patio will open June 1st. Tables are 6 ft apart so the requirements can be accommodated. The tables will seat 4 people per table.
- Cut hours – only 1 person at a time.

Project #205: City Crew

Gottwald was in attendance via phone.

Gottwald informed the council of the following:

- Water is on at the parks.
- Park bathroom will be cleaned morning, noon and evening.
- Beach – if too many people, will have to close down and signs taken down.

Project #444: Waste Water

The council was informed that the MPCA will meet via conference call.

We will have 1 month to get in numbers on trading to MPCA and they will give us a report with new numbers and the testing results.

The council will see what comes out of it and decide how to proceed after the conference call.

The MPCA met via conference call at 3:00 p.m.

Attorney Dan Marks stated they will have new testing including the limit.

Gottwald said – MPCA wants to see what we can do to meet the 121 limit. They want us to work on what to do to get a cushion on the limit if we have a wet year.

Council discussed making a judgement call – can get the 121 limit out or extend the limit to allow us to work towards trading options.

In 30 days, we still submit a plan to the MPCA. They will send back a letter to us that shows our limit which is supposed to include the information from Faille Lake and Clifford Lake that changed.

Gottwald commented to the council – Thanked the guys for doing a good job so I can work on this and spend extra time on this matter.

Project #435: Hwy 27

The city will visit with the VFW and Osakis Country Club to get this project to work out.

Project #482: COVID-19

Council received information regarding restaurant outdoor seating.

Tonya Danielson (The Bowling Barn & Grill) reached out to request additional help with outdoor seating with restaurants in Alexandria.

Jacobson checked with the City of Alexandria was doing and below are their requirements:

- The patio/grass area must be adjacent to the establishment and be on the owner's property.
- It cannot be in a parking lot.
- If it is on the grass according to our liquor license law, it would be allowed, but the County Health Department (food) would need to allow that.
- The patio/grass area must be continuous and have a fence permanent or (temporary could be worked out) that would show a boundary of where service is allowed.

- Each establishment wishing to do this must submit a plan to the city to be filed with their liquor license application that show the area of service and the number of tables to be utilized with social distancing spaces. They also were recommending that the tables be non-porous so that they can easily be sanitized between customers.

The City Administrator of Alexandria is in no way encouraging anyone to violate the governor's order and was not going to take on city liability if done.

Clerk Jacobson presented a resolution for the council to discuss for encouraging the governor to open up the state. Council did not feel this was necessary.

The council discussed the requirements for the outdoor seating:

- Outdoor seating will be allowed at a maximum capacity of 50 people.
- 4 people per table.
- 6 people per table if all family.
- Fence to show where the outdoor seating will be used.
- Outdoor seating will be continuous to the main structure.

Jacobson asked if the council would like to approve this or get into place and have the information at the June 8th meeting.

Council felt that it can move forward with this so businesses can have outdoor seating if needed and have information at the council meeting.

Also will have a proposed sidewalk seating ordinance to review for more permanent use.

Project #84: Budget

Council received a rough draft of the 2021 Budget. Jacobson will be tweaking the numbers more, but gives the council a good starting point.

Council will discuss scheduling meetings at a later date.

Jacobson reviewed the rough draft of the 2021 Budget:

- Includes a 3% wage increase.
- \$100 insurance increase.
- \$10 Health Savings increase.

Jacobson said these numbers can be finalized in the fall. Jacobson assumes the LGA and tax levy will be the same as in the 2020 Budget.

The draft of the budget also includes water/sewer and Liquor Store revenue and expenditures.

Other Items for Discussion:

Gulbranson brought up the cameras that have been donated. Gulbranson would like to put up cameras in the impound lot and each entrance to city hall. Install costs covered by the donated equipment.

Gulbranson will get a setup costs for the cameras. Should be a minimal cost on the city part with cable and some items needed to install them.

Items for Future Meetings:

Council discussed having the council meetings at the Community Center and not virtual. We can have a meeting of 10 people or less at the Community Center.

Workshops and Budget meetings could be virtual meetings which do not have much attendance.

Jacobson said – the concern would be to allow public at that location for regular meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor – Keith E. Emerson

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson