



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
August 11, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The work session meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilbert at 5:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sam Rettinger, and Liz Olson

Staff Present: City Administrator: Terrance Post; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Sharon Henderson and Brian Carpenter (with prior notice)

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Rettinger, seconded by Olson, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Further Discussion of Police RFP Proposals

Mayor Gilbert explained how the public comment and question portion of the meeting would be conducted and referred interested speakers to a sign in sheet, from which speaker names would be called.

Council members heard comment from the individuals listed below, and staff and Council responded to questions received.

Anita Secord, 114 Brown Road N

Ms. Secord requested clarification on recent years Orono Police Department contract amounts paid by Long Lake versus that proposed by Orono for 2011. She stated she heard the Council's message that it is not about the money or the quality of service. To her knowledge people are happy with the current Police services and she does not know what spurred the RFP process along besides the \$10,000. She hopes the Council makes their decision on behalf of the Long Lake residents who will be living here after the decision is made. She is in favor of the Orono PD continuing to be the service provider for Long Lake. Later in the meeting, she also commented that both Councils ought to be ashamed of themselves for not working better together and that somebody has to do the right thing for the citizens of both communities. The two cities will have to work together because things will get tough and the cities will need each other. She emphasized the importance of being good neighbors, and stated she'll pay the extra \$50 to save somebody's life.

Mike Personius, 2220 Daniels Street (Chunk's Garage)

Mr. Personius had read recent newspaper articles and asked, if the issue isn't the money, is the Council unhappy with the service being received.

Council members indicated they were very happy with the service of the Orono PD; however, the issue was with the contract proposal by the Orono Council. As a contract City, Long Lake felt negotiations were at an impasse, and it was both the right and responsibility of the Long Lake Council to open the door and see what other services might be offered.

Janet Schaefer, 1176 West Wayzata Boulevard

Ms. Schaefer appeared to thank the Council for going out for Police services proposals. She empathized with the very difficult decision the Council would be making, appreciated the exercise they are undertaking, and will respect the decision the Council makes based on all the information.

Milton Hanson, 196 Harrington Drive

Mr. Hanson asked for clarification on the price difference between the bids and if the service level from any one provider will be approximately the same, he stated the decision should come down to doing the math.

Pat Dupont, 199 Harrington Drive

Mr. Dupont said he would look at the decision to be made from a business standpoint more than anything else. With a wide variety in pricing between the quotes received, he would prefer the Council vote for Hennepin County Sheriff's Department.

Council member Rettinger clarified that the County's proposal amount may not be the lowest pricing should the Council desire to add more patrol hours than the three hours per day in the base proposal received. The Council has the option to add patrol coverage hours but at additional cost.

Ed Pollock, 315 Dupont Street

Mr. Pollock indicated he is satisfied with the City's Police protection as it stands now; however, asked whether the proposals being considered were all comparable hour to hour for manpower and do they match up. He questioned what the difference would be between the County Sheriff's Department and Wayzata PD.

Post clarified that all three agencies would respond to 911 call and be patrolling in zones. The frequency they may be in Long Lake is the issue.

Kevin Krolczyk, 2285 Daniels Street (Dalbec Roofing)

Mr. Krolczyk commended the Council for the tough thing of going through the RFP process. He also thinks its really important that a good business decision is made, and that whatever politics there have been between the Councils of Long Lake and Orono are set aside. Regarding the base contract amount from Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, he doesn't see how that dollar amount can be the actual amount and doesn't feel that three hours in a day is enough local patrol time. He said it was a little unclear to him what else would be covered outside of patrol and 911 calls. Mr. Dalbec had personal experience with emergency services provided by the Orono PD through last year's tornado damaging his property, a break-in, and graffiti vandalism. The Orono PD also regular goes through the industrial park and checks doors at night. The three hours of daily coverage proposed by the County wouldn't allow for services of that kind. As a commercial property owner he pays a higher percentage in property taxes than a homeowner and would have even more of a reason to love to see the City save money; but he said he has a really hard time from a business standpoint getting his head around how the City would cut Police services in half and be just as safe. He appreciates the Council's efforts and asked that any politics be set aside and the Council make sure it is comparing apples to apples in service providers. He questioned how much the average property owner would actually save on their property taxes by making a change. He has been really glad the Orono PD was right down the road, and that they were familiar with the Long Lake community and its people.

John Hughes, 1694 Bollum Lane

Mr. Hughes questioned what other area cities comparable to Long Lake had switched from a local Police service to the County service.

Mayor Gilbert had spoken to Mayors of other small communities served by the County Sheriff's Department, who had all had positive feedback about the County service; but in fairness those communities had not had prior experience with a local service as Long Lake has had.

An audience member commented that the other small communities mentioned were more rural whereas Long Lake is not.

John Whitman, 294 Greenhill Lane

Mr. Whitman asked if anybody had wrapped up what the differences would be between the three service providers. He stated he has concerns and is willing to pay for a really quick response to save a person's life or respond to an emergency of any kind. In his experiences with calls made from his property he has had response within a minute or two in an emergency, and last time an officer arrived almost by the time he was finished talking to the operator. He thinks the current Police service is really terrific and asked that the Council put safety way ahead of money. He also commented that the really simple question is when talking about different numbers, will the City get the same thing for the lesser number. If the City would be getting the same thing, it's a good deal, but if the City were to get less for less and someone gets hurt, will the City get the same quality and response time. Two minutes can make a huge difference and he would pay extra to save a person's life in a heartbeat.

Craig Riedl, 269 Inglewood Street

Mr. Riedl asked if there had been any comparison of complaints made against the three candidate departments. He thought it would be worthwhile to look into that data.

Summary comments were provided by Chief Mike Risvold, Wayzata Police Department; Inspector Storms, Hennepin County Sheriff's Department; and Chief Correy Farniok, Orono Police Department; each advocating for their departments and discussing their ongoing commitment to work together as area law enforcement agencies as needed to protect public safety.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the work session meeting by general consent at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk