

LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

July 11, 2017

Mayor Cheryl Kelley Farivar called the July 11, 2017 Study Session to order at 9:00 AM.

Council Present: Mayor Cheryl Kelley Farivar, Elmer Larsen, Carolyn Wilson, Gretchen Wearne, Mia Bretz, Margaret Neighbors, Richard Brinkman, and Sharon Waters.

Staff Present: Joel Walinski, Herb Amick, Nathan Pate and Chantell Steiner.

1. Chamber Report

No Report.

2. Presentation: Chelan County Sheriff Department

Chelan County Sheriff Brian Burnett, Undersheriff Jason Mathews and Sergeant Bruce Long introduced themselves to the Council. Sheriff Burnett and Undersheriff Mathews provided copies of and reviewed the information provided within the Sheriff's 2016 Annual Report. They discussed how operational tasks are addressed and discussed vacancies that are currently under review for replacement. Sheriff Burnett reviewed the budget versus actual figures and described their vehicle and equipment replacement program. He discussed the various divisions within the department and explained some of the types of expenditures that fall within those divisions. He identified an increase in activities occurring within the records and civil division, specifically for records requests. Sergeant Long provided a handout on scheduling and updated the Council on how staffing is coordinated for the School Resource Officer and daily police coverage within Leavenworth depending on high tourist days, such as weekends and festivals. Administrator Walinski noted that the City pays additional dollars for festival related coverage. Sheriff Burnett described how staffing resources are utilized for coverage within the entire County and when other agencies work together during busy times. Undersheriff Mathews reviewed various specialized units such as the Drug Task Force, SWAT, Search and Rescue, Marine and Air Patrols. He then briefly reviewed specific figures related to Leavenworth Patrol Hours, Calls for Service, Arrests, Traffic Collisions and Civil Processes.

Councilmembers asked questions of the Sheriff regarding current contracted services. It was identified that the separate cost for RiverCom services is outside of the Sheriff contract because it is a County service that is not included within the Sheriff's budget. Councilmember Waters stated that this is almost like a double dip on the City's residents since they are also providing the same taxes as a county resident to the County through property taxes. County Administrator Cathy Mulhall explained that property taxes do not cover the costs of all County services and that this is one of many programs that the County has to fund through property and sales taxes; therefore, charging each entity based on the number of calls, in her view, is the fairest way to spread the costs. Mayor Farivar questioned how the city patrol hours are tracked; Sergeant Long explained that each deputy has to maintain a log of their individual hours within a specific city or county location; this can also be tracked based on offenses being recorded. Councilmember Bretz questioned the value of the contract based on the services that are actually provided compared to the total services that the County Sheriff has to do for all the communities; for instance, how much does the City pay for services such as marine patrol that may not be utilized by city residents. Councilmember Larsen questioned the affordability noting that Cashmere, who is twice our population, pays less than

Leavenworth. Councilmember Wilson concurred and stated that it is the Council's responsibility to justify costs for services to its residents and feels that the City is paying more than it can afford or should pay for the services needed. Sheriff Burnett responded with statistics related to costs per calls by each community rather than by population and how the time spent on providing services is driven by these factors; he stated that these percentages makes sense when looking at offenses and officer time spent in the different communities. Administrator Walinski noted that when calculating the City's patrol hours, the County should be removing those hours that are included for the additional festival support hours that are paid for separately by the City and Projekt Bayern; by doing this analysis the percentages mentioned by Sheriff Burnett would change.

Council questioned again the need for Leavenworth residents to pay for services that are not necessarily utilized by city residents, such as marine patrol and white water and mountain rescues, which are typically county generated calls; Sheriff Burnett explained the need to support all services to ensure protection to all of our residents who may or may not utilize the services in their designated cities or county. Mayor Farivar discussed the concerns of the high increase occurring year after year of the Sheriff contract in comparison to the increase allowed in property and sales taxes. Administrator Walinski clarified that the combined tax increase is not keeping pace with the increase by the Sheriff contract creating an unsustainable environment; the City uses all of the property tax collected and all of the Public Safety Sales Tax, approved by the voters in 2014, and still additional funding if needed to cover the Sheriff's contract. Mayor Farivar asked if the Sheriff can break out the actual costs of the department that are directly utilized by the Leavenworth city residents and look at the contract price based on those services. Sheriff Burnett stated that this is something to consider and that Ms. Mulhall is present to bring back these discussions to the County Commissioners.

Councilmembers briefly discussed how to contain costs for the contract by looking closely at the cost sharing of the School Resource Officer with the School District. They further reviewed the discussions today with the Sheriff on how the contract costs are generated.

3. Leavenworth Winter Sports Club Snowmaking

Public Works Director Herb Amick updated the Council on the upgrades underway to provide water to the Ski Hill for the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club to make snow in low snowfall years. He noted the need to bring three-phase electric power to the site located on City property; this can be coordinated by the City of Leavenworth with the costs being covered by the Club. Administrator Walinski explained how the Club will pay for land access rights through a lease agreement, similar to the Golf Course, and actual water use. There was a brief discussion on communication with the Board and policing of activities that is included in the lease agreement.

4. Asphalt Repair Project

Director Amick reviewed the results of the recent bidding procedure that resulted in only one bidder that only partially responded for portions of the project for chip seal only. He stated that the City has contacted the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) to see if they would assist the project with the grant funds utilizing the chip seal method, which was approved as a test project by the TIB. Administrator Walinski described how an asphalt area is built up over time by chip sealing to create a more solid street surface versus just doing a seal coat on an existing roadway. The City has done both types of repairs and has found that the chip seal method holds better and longer over time than seal coating.

5. Meadowlark Local Improvement District (LID) Status Update

Administrator Walinski updated the Council on the current project costs noting that the costs are coming in less than was originally anticipated. He then reviewed the map provided of the area to identify the properties being included in the LID area that will be charged the assessments. He noted that there are 4 properties that are being benefitted and not included in the LID that includes three Ida Allen Trust parcels and the Duncan parcel. He explained that this can be accommodated as a reduction to the LID assessments on the other property owners and the City can then recoup those costs through a utility related facility charge that will be paid for by the property owner when utility services are requested and installed. Councilmember Larsen questioned the right-of-way access for the PUD distribution lines and whether some costs could be covered by the PUD; Administrator Walinski stated that he would discuss this with the PUD.

6. Request for 2060 Housing Funds – Housing Authority

Finance Director Chantell Steiner reviewed the request from the Housing Authority of Chelan County for \$4,100.00 in funding to support a rent comparability study in preparation of major grant requests to rehabilitate the Garten Haus Apartments for low-income senior residents in Leavenworth. She noted that the study can be funded by the 2060 Housing funds that the City has on hand and the total benefit of the rehabilitation project could be as high as about \$1.9 Million dollars.

7. Quarterly Update Future Council Agenda Items / Project Tracking

Administrator Walinski reviewed the handout of projects provided each quarter identifying the different sections of projects, legal items, and new items that come up during the year that are added at the end of the document. Council discussed the newest item related to the apple maggot quarantine area noting that staff is working with the County on ways to address the concerns of moving yard waste out of the quarantine area.

8. Quarterly City Newsletter Recommendations – Distribution in August

Mayor Farivar reviewed the planned articles that will go out in the next newsletter and asked Council for other topic ideas. Council discussed some ideas to improve the recycle center facility for better use and efficiency as the recycling needs grow. Councilmember Waters asked that reminders be included for dogs on leashes and the overnight rental hotline phone number. Councilmember Wilson stated that she would like to see something fun included.

9. Council Open Discussion

Councilmember Bretz asked for follow-up on the Mountain Pact letter of support; Administrator Walinski noted that the City did send out a letter and that he would provide the Council with a copy of that letter.

Study Session adjourned at 11:30 AM.

APPROVED



Cheryl K. Farivar
Mayor

ATTEST



Chantell Steiner
Finance Director/City Clerk