

Public Safety Committee Meeting July 13, 2017

The Public Safety Committee met Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the City Hall Conference Room. Present were Committee Members Jeff Erlenbusch, Brant Kassner and Ken Gardner. Also present were Police Chief Doug Colombik, Fire Chief Gary Warren, EMS Training Officer Sarah Lewin, Citizen Michelle Simpson, Battalion Chief Branden Stevens, Mayor John Hollowell, Fire Captain Mike Miller and Committee Recorder Linda Wilkins. Excused was Committee Member John Uden.

Chairperson Gardner called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens
None
2. Request of Committee Members
None
3. Discuss & Recommend EMS / Ambulance Mutual Aid Agreement
***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to discuss the EMS / Ambulance Mutual Aid Agreement, seconded by Committee Member Kassner.*

Chief Warren commented that this agreement is new. There are currently agreements for fire services, but not for ambulance. Officer Lewin stated that the Miles City ambulance will intercept with other ambulances and the City can bill for the distance, but cannot bill for services if an EMT or Paramedic have to board the other provider ambulance to provide patient care. Committee Member Gardner stated that the agreement should be amended to allow the billing for patient care on another provider ambulance.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to amend the motion to change wording on EMS / Ambulance Mutual Aid agreement add the reimbursement to provide patient care and forward it on to City Council with the updated reimbursement section to reflect billing to provide patient care, seconded by Committee Member Kassner. On roll call vote the amended motion **passed** unanimously 3-0*

4. Review & Recommend action on Public Nuisance
***Committee Member Kassner moved to discuss action on public nuisance, seconded by Committee Member Kassner.*

Committee Member Gardner reviewed Glendive's public nuisance ordinance with City Attorney Rice which has the following guidelines: Code Enforcement Officer will issue a citation giving 1 – 10 days for the property owner to clean up the problem, to abate it; if it is not abated then they go before a nuisance hearing before moving to city council, they then have 10 – 30 days for abatement; after this time the city or a hired contractor could clean it up and then a lien would be filed against the property. Attorney Rice is working on the nuts and bolts of this and he is also working on vehicle and trailer clean up. He

spoke with Bruce and Doug Ingraham regarding asbestos, if there is higher than 1% asbestos content in the cleanup there will be hoops that have to be jumped through. Average cost for cleanup on a 1000 square foot house runs about \$2,500 to \$3,000 with up to an additional \$1,000 if there is asbestos removal. Costs would have to come out of the general fund, build a kitty and the general fund would be reimbursed when the cleanup cost are recovered through the lien. He would like to focus on ideas that keep the city clean and community members' safe. Mayor Hollowell commented that it would be good to go through the current ordinance as it defines what a nuisance is. He also thought it would be good to create a class system, and use the court system when valuable property is involved. Committee Member Erlenbusch commented if the City Attorney is on board and has a guide to go with for the weeds and regular nuisance he thought this is good, but there is a difference when doing lead or asbestos abatement. He also commented he had received a call from a constituent on cleanup of the house that had just burned. He realizes that it needs to be released by law enforcement and the fire marshal; he thought it would be good to get a good chain of command going to keep up on this and a timeframe for cleanup. As far as vehicles on the street, he thought the current parking ordinance must be good since it had not been revised in over 15 years it just needs to be enforced. Committee Member Kassner thought maybe upping the fines would help, then people would not be so likely to move the vehicle and then just move it back. Committee Member Erlenbusch said when they moved the vehicle back they would be fined again. Committee Member Kassner commented one of his ward members commented the fines were cheap rent, maybe look at a more graduated system start at \$25 and then move up to maybe \$100 for the next offense. Committee Member Gardner tabled for further discussion.

5. Discuss & Recommend relinquishment of dispatch between City and County

***Committee Member Kassner moved to discuss relinquishment of dispatch between City and County, seconded by Committee Member Gardner.*

Committee Member Gardner recommended to pass on to full city council with a recommended fail. Committee Member Erlenbusch thought there should be more people involved in this decision and needed to have ground work laid before moving on to full council with a recommendation. Committee Member Kassner commented that this was a county commissioner's request and there is no representation present at this meeting. Committee Member Gardner would like to know why this would be more efficient to move dispatch from city to county and how it would impact current employees. Committee Member Erlenbusch thought it would be good to review our finances as far as wages, when looking at the bottom line it's hard to make a decision without more information. He would like to see someone from Finance involved to help make the decision. Mayor Hollowell stated that the city receives \$112,000 from the 911 fund. Commissioner Krausz and the Sheriff's office are currently fighting the city on it getting the full amount. They would like to keep the money for equipment, which is not bad in itself, but equipment does no good without employees to run it. The City pays 75% of the costs for 911 based on calls and the county picks up the rest, moving dispatch to the County would put the City at a great disadvantage. The entity that determines the amount to charge for calls would be out of the city's hands. Chief Colombik commented at the last 911 meeting Commissioner Krausz talked about it but there was no clear answer on

why it would be more efficient. All dispatchers would be released from employment and the county would make its own department. This all began after interviewing for the dispatch supervisor and no reason has ever been given on why this would be more efficient. Mayor Hollowell stated the only way we could protect our employees is if the city negotiated with the county to keep the current employees. He has received no reasoning from the county commissioners, not saying that they don't have them.

***Committee Member Kassner amended the original motion to move to City Council with a recommendation for no, seconded by Committee Member Erlenbusch. On roll call vote the amended motion **passed** unanimously, 3-0.*

6. Adjournment

***Committee Member Erlenbush moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Kassner and **passed** unanimously, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Ken Gardner, Chairperson



Linda Wilkins, Recorder