

**Public Safety Committee Meeting  
November 19, 2019**

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members John Uden, Kathy Wilcox, Ken Gardner and Austin Lott. Also present were: Mayor John Hollowell, Councilperson Rick Huber, Police Chief Doug Colombik, Police Lt. Dan Baker, Police Officer Coy Sheets, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Fire Captain Jake Richards, Fire Lt. Taran Harbaugh and Human Resources Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Uden called the meeting to order.

**1. Request of Citizens**

None

**2. Committee Member Comments**

None

**3. New Business**

**A. Discuss Police Dept.'s need for a new search warrant related computer program**

Chief Colombik passed out a quote from ZetX for the purchase of the Trax Suite annual subscription service in the amount of \$2,194.00. He stated that Officer Sheets had attended training paid for by the Secret Service on the use of the Trax Suite, this subscription service is used for the tracking cell phone usage of suspects in a criminal investigation. He asked Officer Sheets to speak to the Committee regarding the four-month free preview that the department has been using, the free preview expired November 1. Officer Sheets provided a status report on the training he attended on the use of this subscription service. During the free preview period he has used the subscription service very effectively in the investigation of a high-profile case. This subscription service has provided good results during this investigation. The evidentiary information from cell phone usage was provided quickly within a few days. This information, normally, would take months to obtain. The service cuts down on the time and effort of an officer and frees time up for other duties. Committee Chair Uden asked if there was money in the budget for this purchase. Chief Colombik commented that he would be meeting with the County Attorney's office regarding the cost of this service to see if they would share the cost. He also commented that this type of service is a necessity with the way technology is advancing. Lt. Baker also commented that the service will be helpful in searching for alias' information used by suspects. Committee Chair Uden asked how training would be provided for this service. Officer Sheets stated he has put together a lesson and training plan and would be training other officers when using this service. Lt. Baker stated that county attorneys and judges are aware of this technology and the time saved and information obtained is invaluable. Committee Member Lott noted at the bottom of the quote the quote it stated; "Multi-annual locked in pricing subscriptions are available for final invoice: contact ZetX for details." He thought it would be good to find out what type of cost savings could be obtained from locking in pricing for a few years. He stated it is important to be as fiscally responsible.

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to recommend to Council that the Police Department obtain the Trax Suite from ZetX, seconded by Committee Member Lott. On roll call vote the motion passed 4-0.*

**B. Future use of cell phones and texting for official law enforcement business per FBI and**

Chief Colombik stated that CJIN provided new information that the use of personal cell phones is not allowed when communicating criminal justice information. He would like the command staff to have access to cell phones provided by the City. These phones would be simple flip phones. He has been looking at the cost associated with providing phones to six command staff. He has contacted both the State and AT&T. AT&T's cost was approximately \$16-\$17 per month for each phone. The Mayor commented that he understands this will require money, but the City can only afford so much the City is taking steps to reverse financial trends. Committee Member Wilcox suggested to provide the committee with a worksheet with cost comparisons from two vendors and bring it back to the committee for review.

*\*\*Committee Chair Uden moved to continue this item at the next Public Safety Meeting on December 17, seconded by Committee Member Wilcox. The motion passed by unanimous consent 4-0.*

C. Discuss potential for future Police Dept. operational quarters

Committee Chair Uden asked Chief Colombik where the construction committee stood on current plans. Chief Colombik stated that Lt. Baker had been spearheading this building planning up for the last two years and that there are plans from the architects. He stressed that the cost currently for keeping the Police Department housed at its current location, at the VA Hospital, was costing \$3,116/month. He would like to see a meeting take place with the public so decisions can be made, he then asked Lt. Baker for his comments. Lt. Baker stated that three Preliminary Architectural Reports (PAR) have been completed by JGA Architects. Chief Stevens commented the cost for each tax payer within the City would be approximately the cost of two cups of specialty coffee at about \$12/month. He stated when people are considering a place to live one of the primary things they consider is quality of life. The issues of housing the Police Department and Miles City fire and rescue can not continue. He thought it was a good idea for the City to look at its needs for the future.

Lt. Baker continued with the 1<sup>st</sup> building option. This option came in with an estimate of \$7.8 million. This option they believe is too small and would not face Main Street. He informed the committee this cost includes all furniture and is high. The Council needs to approve a PAR before any further work can be done to secure funding, these are just preliminary plans and can and will be changed. Chief Stevens commented that this plan is being built on the current footprint which is limited based on the area. Lt. Baker stated they are negotiating with the residents east of the current fire station; however, Myles Gaub may sacrifice a portion of his parking lot to the west. Mayor Hollowell commented that Mr. Tom Hanel has been negotiating on obtaining the property east of the current building.

2<sup>nd</sup> building option – This would be facing Main Street and reconfigured on the same footprint. It would include an isolated impound garage for safety. It would house the City agencies, Montana Probation and Parole, the Drug Task Force and Montana Highway Patrol. Housing other agencies other than the City would provide rental income. Committee Chair Uden asked if they had been in touch with these other agencies. Lt. Baker has been in contact and all agencies are very interested, these agencies have, in fact, sat down with the architects and put in special requests for their agencies. This option is workable for now and in the future, it provides space for further expansion and meets the needs of all agencies. The cost of this PAR is \$9.7 million, again this is on the high side of cost and adjustments can be made to the plan, if this option is chosen.

3<sup>rd</sup> building option – This plan is very similar to the 2<sup>nd</sup> option. The only changes are moving a few walls, providing inside storage for the search and rescue boat and placing glass windows around the parking area of the fire trucks. Cost of this PAR \$10.3 million.

Both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> options, would require the fire training center to be relocated, and they are tossing around some options for relocation.

Committee Member Wilcox commented that it would be a good idea to allow a full hour for the Council to review the three PARs prior to the Regular Council Meeting. The Mayor agreed this could take place.

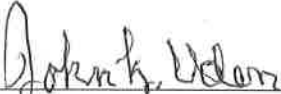
*\*\*Committee Member moved to recommend a full review by Council at a Special Council Meeting on December 10, seconded by Committee Chair Uden. On roll call, the motion passed 4-0.*

#### 4. Adjournment

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Lott and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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John Uden, Chairperson

  
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Linda Wilkins, Recorder

