

**Public Safety Committee Meeting**  
**March 29, 2022**

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 6:15 pm via live attendance and Zoom Conferencing in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Roxanna Brush, Kathy Wilcox, and Ken Gardner. Absent was: Committee Member Chris Grenz. Also present were: Police Chief Doug Colombik, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson. Battalion Chief Sarah Lewin, Fire Captain Taran Harbaugh, Firefighter Brad Davis. Dispatcher Keli Anderson, Building Inspector Eric Gilmore, Council Member Dwayne Andrews, Local 600 President Casey Miller and HR Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Brush called the meeting to order.

**1. Request of Citizens**

**2. Staff Comments**

Supervisor Anderson reported to the committee that she would be meeting with Dawson County regarding there a partial consolidation of their dispatch center with Miles City. She believes that it will be a full consolidation in 10 months to a year.

**3. Committee Member Comments**

**4. Review and Recommend - completion of the Phase II work on the MCPD, including recommending a structural engineer, from a list currently on retainer with the City, to assess and recommend work needed to resolve settling and bat issues at the facility.**

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to obtain a structural engineer for the completion of Phase 2 work on the MCPD station and cost to full council, seconded by Committee Member Gardner.*

There was discussion concerning the bat issue and moving onto Phase II. Nathan Jewell is currenting working on the brick work in the upstairs area of the building, once this work is competed it should help with the bat problem. There was concern regarding possible settling of the building, the Mayor commented that there are no issues with the foundation of the building. Building Inspector Gilmore commented he saw no indication of settling or structural problems, if people where moved upstairs then a structural engineer would be needed and the foundation strengthened.

*The motion passed 2-1, with Committee Member Gardner voting nay.*

**5. Review and Recommend priorities for Fire Hall urgent repairs & upgrades; complete Fire Hall repair and upgrade priorities by Oct 31, 2022 and recommend an architectural firm and an engineering firm from a list of firms currently on retainer with the City. (this is a back-up plan for the Fire Hall, in case the larger, more expensive plan Branden has been telling us about is not approved by Council and/or the public).**

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to obtain priorities for Fire Hall urgent repairs & upgrades; complete Fire Hall repair and upgrade priorities by Oct 31, 2022 and recommend an architectural firm and an engineering firm from a list of firms currently on retainer with the City, seconded by Committee Member Wilcox.*

Fire Chief Stevens updated the committee:

- All information previously presented to Council has indicated the current unsafe condition of the fire station. The cost of the repairs to bring the current fire station up to code would be approximately \$5 million. The lives of individuals working in the building are at stake. Due to the current condition of the building he has instructed command staff to move everything out of the west end structure of the building. Building Inspector Gilmore commented he has reviewed the prior reports and looked at the building, the mold in the building is extensive, there is evidence of electrical fires, the structural studs are molding, concrete is heaving; it is unsafe for the fire department to be operating out of the building.
- The approximate timeline to complete a new building is 18-24 months.
- The removal of the equipment will affect response time and service.
- The PAR is currently being completed by the architect, which will be presented to Council. He working with Senators Daines and Tester to secure a 40-year low interest USDA loan and 35% USDA match grant. There will need to a mil levy increase presented to voters on the November 8, 2022 ballot. A smaller building has reduced cost to \$5.7 million a more realistic figure would be \$6.5 million.

*There was no action on the motion, the motion died.*

**6. Recommend to Full Council a resolution to authorize announcement of a request for bids of baiting, trapping and removal of nuisance pigeon population.**

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to recommend to Full Council a resolution to authorize announcement of a request for bids of baiting, trapping and removal of nuisance pigeon population, seconded by Committee Member Gardner.*

Chief Colombik stated there is currently an individual that comes up from South Dakota to trap pigeons, but it would be good to have someone on a consistent basis.

*The motion passed unanimously 3-0.*

**7. Discuss and recommend ordinance to make texting and driving in Miles City illegal.**

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to recommend an ordinance to make texting and driving in Miles City illegal, seconded by Committee Member Gardner.*


Chief Colombik stated he could look at some model polices to review with Council, the city had attempted to do this before in 08 or 09 and it didn't pass, also it is difficult to enforce. The Mayor commented it should follow what the state does.

*The motion passed unanimously 3-0.*

**8. Adjournment**

*\*\*Committee Member Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Brush and passed unanimously, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

  
Chairperson Roxanna Brush

  
Recorder Linda Wilkins