

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN  
Minutes of the City Council Work Session  
Monday, July 10, 2023

PRESENT: Councilmembers Arnoys, Brann, DeKryger, Hill, Mayor Vanderwood and Mayor Pro Tem Postema

ABSENT: Councilmember Postler

STAFF: Erickson, Hofert, Koster, Shay, Snyder, VandenBerg, VanTassell and Yenchar

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Pro Tem Postema called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Student Recognition**

None.

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None.

**4. Fire Department Fleet Discussion**

City Manager Shay introduced this item, noting past conversations with council about fleet needs and usage in the Fire Department. Tonight's presentation is meant to give council a detailed review of the equipment in the fleet and outline the current need for a platform aerial fire truck.

Chief Koster noted she and Deputy Chief VanTassell will present, and Deputy Public Safety Director Snyder is also in attendance and available for questions. Koster shared the objectives that will be addressed, including a description of the current fleet, an outline of the needs and costs associated with the purchase of a new platform truck, and a review of how the department responds to calls for service and the factors that influence how the department responds.

VanTassell began by detailing the current fleet, noting how each piece of apparatus is used, anticipated replacement dates, and staffing needs and limitations of each unit. VanTassell compared service limitations and opportunities of a ladder truck versus an aerial platform.

Koster explained the timing of the request to purchase a new platform aerial and how replacement of the existing platform truck was anticipated in the next 18 months. Erickson briefly explained how payments are made to Motor Pool to prepare for replacement of city vehicles. Replacement of the current unit was expected in 2025, however this unit failed its most recent compliance test and repairing the unit could not be justified due to cost. Koster noted other departmental equipment purchases and staffing needs that were prioritized and it is now time to seek council direction on this purchase. Koster explained how this purchase is proposed to be funded.

Council briefly discussed how equipment life expectancy is determined and how Motor Pool rates are established. Council also posed several budget and funding questions related to this purchase.

VanTassell reviewed the department's current deployment model with minimum staffing. VanTassell discussed medical call priorities and when staff are deployed for those and the various types of fire calls and the response for those. VanTassell explained how staffing and unit deployment drives response.

Koster noted prior to next week's council meeting, council will have an opportunity to view units from the department's fleet at Gezon Station. Staff would also like to have council consider the purchase of a platform truck at that meeting.

Shay will seek clarification on some of the budget and funding questions raised during tonight's discussion.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular city council meeting.

## **5. Proactive Code Enforcement**

Shay noted previous discussion at the Council Retreat about the potential for a proactive code enforcement officer. This position has been budgeted for and staff is seeking council direction on filling this position due to the change it brings in enforcement philosophy.

Hofert provided background on the goals and resources that guide code enforcement, including the current complaint-based process. Last summer, staff initiated a targeted enforcement of select commercial corridors. The majority of these issues were resolved through education and engaging with property owners. Overall, staff has seen long-term compliance in these areas and an increase in property complaints because many property owners now know what is expected for compliance.

Hofert explained the approach to proactive code enforcement will be led through identifying code issues, educating property owners, collaborating to find solutions, and improving the visual aesthetic in commercial and industrial corridors. Staff is only considering proactive code enforcement in commercial and industrial areas but may wish to expand to residential areas at a later date. Many surrounding communities already use proactive enforcement.

Hofert discussed the timeline for launching this program, noting education and patience will be key. This staff person will be expected to build relationships, educate property owners, and help facilitate compliance.

Staff is prepared to proceed with hiring for this position. Council approval is not required, but staff is seeking support because of the shift in enforcement practices.

While some members expressed concerns, council is generally supportive of staff proceeding with this initiative.

## **6. City Center Update**

Shay noted the recent funding received from the State of Michigan for the City Center Project and introduced Hofert to provide an update.

Hofert announced a groundbreaking for the City Center will be held on July 27 at 11 a.m.; invitations have been sent. Based on the funding received, all components of phases 1 and 2 can

now occur. Hofert reviewed components of the overall project and noted completion of this project is likely to occur in 2025.

Staff will begin to bring additional contracts and other items to upcoming council meetings for select elements within the project.

**7. Any Other Matters**

None.

**8. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment (3-minute limit per person)**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk