

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
Special City Council Meeting
July 28, 2020

Mayor Kyle Pauley presiding

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Debbi Moran, Dale Andrews, Candice Makos, Jim Ancich, and Stana Cummings.

STAFF PRESENT

City Administrator Darrin Raines, Fire Chief Cody Bridges, Attorney Steve Johnson, and Finance Director Julie Pope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Andrews seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Fire Equipment Bond on November Election (Ordinance 1347)** – Mayor Pauley stated that this is the same ordinance that was passed earlier this year. Only change is for the dates to allow it on the November ballot. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve. Councilmember Andrews seconded. Chief Bridges stated that he would like to change the ordinance description to allow the bonds to pay for the fire truck that was purchased earlier this year plus he would like to forego the new aid car, but purchase a mini pumper truck and a command vehicle. The command vehicle would be a pickup style rig. He stated this would still stay within the \$750,000. He stated the reason for the new mini pumper is that we have two outdated pumpers that have transmission problems and various other issues. They are also out of compliance with the ratings bureau due to their age. He stated that the command rig impacts our rating as well because it would lower our response time. He would allow shifts so that whoever is on duty would have the vehicle to be able to respond. They would take it to their homes. Councilmember Moran asked if ambulances become outdated. Chief Bridges stated that ambulances are not tied to our ratings. He stated that since we pay Aberdeen to transport, he feels it is not a necessity at this time. Councilmember Moran asked if the department would be surplus the outdated equipment. He stated that it would depend on what would give us the best rating. Councilmember Andrews stated that the fire truck was purchased we would temporarily have a utility tax to help cover the payments until a bond could happen. It was discussed also discussed that a new aid car would be beneficial to the department as well. No other pumper or command vehicle was discussed. The Council approved paying for the new fire truck an aid car, no other equipment. He stated that he has been available to discuss any and all needs of the department, but he has not been contacted. He and Councilmember Moran are on the Public Safety Committee. He believes we only have one shot at this with so many people out of work and the on going pandemic. Chief Bridges stated he thought he would be able to help rewrite the ordinance and have that presented to the Council. He feels this is what is best for the citizens in Cosmopolis. Councilmember Andrews asked if Chief Bridges was able to get the information from the ratings bureau to provide to the Council. Councilmember Ancich stated that he is concerned about recent purchases due to the ongoing pandemic. He stated that he spoke with the finance director and she stated that we can get by doing what we are for right now. He is not comfortable asking people for money right now. He feels the timing is not right at the moment. He would like to wait until next year. Mayor Pauley asked the Finance Director about the finances. Finance Director Pope stated that with the currently utility tax we are collection on average \$2.41 per account to help cover the fire truck payment. Over the course of the year, it is over \$21,000. We can squeak by on this. If we go out to bond and it passes, we will not be collecting that money until next year. Because of the pandemic, there are too many unknowns at this time. Councilmember Makos stated that she agrees with Councilmember Ancich. She believes \$750,000 is too much at this time but would vote for \$500,000 to pay for the fire truck. She made a motion to amend the original motion to change the amount of the bond to \$500,000. No one seconded. The amendment failed. She feels another pumper truck and a command vehicle are too much at this time. Councilmember Ancich stated that he knows there are equipment issues, but he feels that the Chief, Public Safety committee and City Administrator get together to get facts and figures as to needs and scenarios. He would like more discussion. Councilmember Cummings would like more information and feels like this is a bad time to ask for money. Chief Bridges stated that the facts and figures don't go out until he gets a yes vote to go out to bond. He would like to have the citizens voice in this.

Mayor Pauley stated that any information given to voters would need approval from the committee and City Hall prior to going out. Councilmember Andrews feels the department needs the equipment. He agrees with Councilmembers Ancich and Makos that this should be tabled at this time. He would like Chief Bridges along with the Public Safety Committee, City Administrator Raines and Finance Director Pope to discuss this. Councilmember Andrews made a motion to amend the current motion to table the discussion on ordinance 1347. Seconded by Councilmember Makos. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Assistant Chief John Bramstedt – He stated that a lot of fire calls are needing more than one apparatus. The current equipment has known problems and is more than 15 years old. He says we are here to discuss this now and the Council is here to serve the citizens. He stated that Police Department has new cars and Public Works has an excavator that we could probably rent. Councilmember Ancich stated that no one denying your needs. He believes that what the Council is saying is we need more discussion.

Meeting adjourned.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor