



Harrisburg City Council Work Session Minutes
October 26, 2021
6:30 PM

Mayor: Robert Duncan
Council President: Mike Caughey
Councilors Present: Kimberly Downey, Robert Boese, and Charlotte Thomas.
Councilors Absent: Adam Keaton and Randy Klemm
Staff Present: City Administrator Michele Eldridge, Finance Officer Cathy Nelson,
City Recorder Lori Ross
Meeting Location: Harrisburg Municipal Center located at 354 Smith St

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL by Mayor, Robert Duncan at the hour of 6:31pm

CONCERNED CITIZEN(S) IN THE AUDIENCE. All present were there for items on the agenda.

THE MATTER OF MEETING WITH A MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE FROM LCSO IF ONE IS AVAILABLE

STAFF REPORT: No representative available.

THE MATTER OF MEETING WITH A MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT IF ONE IS AVAILABLE

STAFF REPORT: Chief Larson presented the 3rd quarter stats as shown in Exhibit A. Some of the highlights included:

- Coburg Police Department appeared for Bailiff duties three times and arrested a defendant for contempt of court as ordered by the Judge.
- Coburg PD had officers working the 4th of July parade and also attended National Night Out.
- Harrisburg Middle School Administrator, Darcy Edwards, contacted Coburg regarding concerns with kids running into traffic. They responded and spoke with the kids.
- Thomas commented that Coburg also worked the Harvest Festival, and the board was very happy with their contribution.

- Chief Larson informed Council that the speed trailer, which monitors traffic, should be in Harrisburg next week to get a traffic count.
- Eldridge commented that the traffic count data might help the City be able to approach ODOT about changing the speed limit coming over the bridge. Downey commented that she has residents reach out to her regarding that speed zone and asks why the City doesn't change it. Eldridge responded that the highway was controlled by ODOT. Duncan commented that over the years, there have been at least three vehicles that have gone through the fence by Public Works.

THE MATTER OF APPROVING RESOLUTION NO. 1260 STATING THE CITY OF HARRISBURG'S SUPPORT FOR TAX MEASURE 22-189

STAFF REPORT: Eldridge stated that Sheriff Jim Yon sent the City a letter asking the City for support in the form of a resolution for their tax levy. Our current contract with the Linn County Sheriff Office is \$249,183 and provides us with 275 additional hours of coverage. The current levy supports 127 of the 190 employees, so if the levy does not pass, LCSO wouldn't be able to meet the contract requirements.

- Thomas stated that she supports the levy but was curious what the increase amount was. Boese thought it was about 2.9%. Eldridge responded that it was an increase of \$27.75 per year from the current rate.
 - Downey **motioned to approve Resolution No. 1260, "A Resolution indicating the support of Linn County Measure 22-189-A 4-Year Law Enforcement option Tax Levy"** and was **seconded by Boese. City Council then voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 1260.**

THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY LAW ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE CITY OF HARRISBURG

STAFF REPORT: Eldridge stated the breakdown of our current law enforcement contracts which include \$249,000 paid to LCSO for 3,300 hours annually and \$33,000 paid to Coburg PD for 420 hours annually. Some of the other highlights included:

- Exhibit A, which shows the total Police Department Budgets for some comparable cities including Toledo, Oakridge, Philomath, Coburg, and Junction City.
- Eldridge commented that Veneta and Creswell both contract with Lane County to provide full time Deputies, a Chief, vehicles, and supplies. The department is governed by Lane County. Both of these cities have a budget of around one million dollars for law enforcement.
- Eldridge stated that the City has reached out to LCSO in the past about having assigned Deputies, and they were not able to accommodate that request.
- Downey commented that the cost of a Police Department is \$470,000 after the first year, which includes two FTE's (Full Time Employees). She asked Chief Larson how many hours his officers work and he replied 40 hours plus per week. She stated that with that number, we would have about 80 hours a week uncovered. She commented that people are complaining about the amount of time Deputies are in Harrisburg, and she doesn't see that changing with two FTE's and she would like to see the Ad-Hoc Committee overcome that problem. She suggested that a member of the Ad-Hoc Committee come to a Budget Committee meeting, so they are aware of our funds.
- Thomas stated that she liked the idea of an Ad-Hoc Committee, and that it would be interesting to see where Veneta is able to come up with their funding for Law Enforcement as their population isn't too far off from Harrisburg.
- Mayor Duncan mentioned that he contacted Don Messick, formerly with LCSO and a previous City Council Member, and he agreed to be on the committee as well as resident Travis Crosman. He asked Downey, Caughey and Thomas to be on the

committee which would meet once a month for a total of two to three meetings.

Thomas and Downey both agreed to be on the committee.

- Eldridge commented on the total personnel cost. She stated that everyone budgets differently and that she would need to contact the underwriters for CIS to find out what insurance and liability would cost the City for a department.
- Downey mentioned that there is also a union to deal with and asked Chief Larson if Coburg Police Department was a union and he answered no. Thomas commented that it was up to the police officers whether or not they were union, not the City.
- Eldridge asked Chief Larson if they were accredited, and he answered no but they joined a LESM (Law Enforcement Standards Manual), which is policy written by attorneys to meet national standards for Oregon. There are about 130 policies and he's still in the process of shaping those policies for Coburg. He believes it's an upcoming standard for Oregon for all agencies to be accredited and that you can find out more information about this through Oregon Accreditation Alliance.
- Eldridge commented that some of the higher costs are for dispatch and jail services. As we are looking at the amount of money we would need, we don't have any other discretionary funds other than the street fund. She reminded Council that both contracts for LCSO and Coburg expire June 30, 2022.
- Caughey commented that the City staff did a great job providing this information for the meeting. He commented that if we were to hire one officer, that would be about 5 hours a day of coverage. He doesn't see how you can have a department with one officer without having the additional resources we have now. Caughey agreed to be on the Ad-Hoc Committee.
- Chief Larson commented that they don't have 24-hour coverage, but he has officers on call. He does a lot of trouble shooting to prioritize calls as they are picked up by Lane County and Oregon State Police. For every 8 hours of on call duty, the officers receive one hour of pay. He applauded the City for their efforts as he believes it's the right move.
- Downey commented that Coburg's budget is about \$625,000 for four officer's and they still don't have 24/7 coverage and she believes that is what our citizens want. Thomas commented that we don't need to have 24-hour coverage if other cities don't have it and they are successful.
- Downey asked if you could do a bond for a Police Department and Nelson answered that we could do a levy. Nelson stated that she would go through the different cities budgets and find out who has a levy.
- Mayor Duncan stated that he would like to know what the county's budget is. Caughey stated that the Sheriff Department is part of the county, and they should be budgeting more to support their agency. The City is paying them three different ways and they still don't have enough funding.
- Mayor Duncan read the email from Travis Crossman regarding law enforcement as shown below:

"My apologies for my inability to attend tonight's meeting, I have after school activities that I needed to attend. I do think we need to have a big change in our town's coverage as far as law enforcement services go. My biggest concern being that our town pays a lot of "extra" money to the Sheriff's office for "extra" coverage, and we have repeatedly been told that we get our contract fulfilled by call response.

In all reality if there was no contract in place, we would continue to get call response regardless from the sheriff's office. The citizens of our town pay both city and county taxes and therefor would be included in that coverage.

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The disturbing part about this is that unfortunately there are towns in Linn County who do not pay for extra services and still receive call response and the amount of coverage we get now. I feel there are a couple different routes to take the town as far as law enforcement services and I am excited to help find a better alternative than what we have had this far.” Thank you, Travis Crosman.

- Mayor Duncan applauded the letter and commented that he loves it when citizens get involved.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Eldridge stated that Aaron Brown has agreed to donate to the City 10 feet of his property located on Sommerville Loop. This is about 4,000 sq ft which will be used for the future 9th Street extension from the Max Hammer Subdivision. Eventually, Woodhill Crossings will be extending 9th St to Sommerville Loop, and this will match up to offer a full-size street that will go through. The City has System Development Charges Funds (SDC) set aside for this project. She will be sending him the legal paperwork that will be part of a street dedication deed. Downey stated that system development charges come from past and present developers and can only be used towards streets, water, sewer, and storm drainage lines.
- Eldridge informed Council the City will be moving forward with replacing the reader board once all of the required information is received and submitted to CIS.

ADJOURN at the hour of 7:19pm

Mayor

City Recorder