

City Council Work Session

January 11, 2024

11:00 am

Present: Mayor Trimble, Mayor Pro-Tem Warrior, Councilmember Wadsworth. Councilmember Lowe advised she would not be staying at the meeting, advising the city did not give proper notice to the paper or public. Councilmember Lowe was advised by the City Clerk and City Manager Pullium (via phone) that proper notice was given to the paper and public (24 hours), also it was announced at council meeting on January 8th. At this time Councilmember Lowe left the meeting. 11:12 am.

Mayor Trimble went over the declining tax income, several businesses and Industries have closed and increased the tax burden on property owners.

Mayor Pro-Tem Warrior, the city will look at doing a better job of getting the meetings dates out to the public, but the meeting was announced at the regular meeting. Maybe more citizens will come to meetings and the possibility of finding a bigger place for meetings in the future.

Department summary:

Chief Couch the police department is working on being proactive and not reactive. Creating a positive reaction from the community. The police department needs the community to help with solving crimes, but the citizens don't want to get involved. The police department needs a bigger courtroom or breaking the docket into two courts per month, there was a 40-page court docket for January and people were standing in the halls and outside. The police department is in the process of updating the SOP, this is being done by two retired police officers. Chief Couch advised that he did try several years ago to get the SOP updated, but it was never approved to move forward.

Fire Chief Williams has 10 full time employees, 12 part-time and 5 auxiliary firefighters. The biggest concern for the fire department is the budget. The fire department has outgrown the building, equipment needs to be replaced, the city needs to add another department to cover the Mt. Springs project. The fire chief wants to maintain the community action with the citizens not just on bad days or when they are in trouble, but the day-to-day contact. The council has requested that all firefighters work on becoming EMT certified and try to do it in a timely manner. Fire Chief Williams said that one firefighter wanted to know if he failed the test, would this employee be fired. City Manager Pullium said the request from the council for all firefighters to be EMT certified is to improve Public Safety.

Recreation Director Cummings has 3 full time employees, in need of one seasonal, a part time score keeper and groundskeeper/maintenance and need more volunteers. There was some major damage done to one of the ballfield fences where the fence and poles were pulled out of the ground and would really like see cameras place through out the recreation and ballfields. The Senior Center is need of some repairs, there is some leaking, possible mold, bathrooms need repair and heating & air units are outdated. In need of a new meals on wheels van. The roof and gym floor were replaced last year.

Utility Director Summers has 6 employees, 1 wastewater employee and one opening. We have a good team and they work well with each other. The city's infrastructure is in a weak condition, was installed in

1916 and that is where most of the complaints that we responded to come from, our crew had 90 calls in 18 days with 167 disconnects, it just takes time to respond to all calls. The utility department does need a new utility truck.

Code Enforcement Ric Hamlin has 17 years of experience with code enforcement. In October he had 36 cases and 26 have been resolved. In December there was 8 cases and 6 are closed. The city has problems with trash on side of the road, mattresses, furniture, at least 220 dilapidated houses in town and the landbank will help with those. There is a great need for a convenience center in town.

Mayor Trimble went over the following:

- Chain of command in an emergency
- MDA and DDA responsible to attract Economic growth
- Restoration Plan
- Land Bank and education on the land bank
- Discussion of work session dates
- Comp Plan
- RFP for solid waste collection
- Automated 311 system for the city
- Updated SOP for Police Department
- Update SOP for all departments
- Fire department EMT certification, ISO rating

Mark Trimble, Mayor

Angel Fowler, City Clerk