

Cambridge City Council Special Meeting Minutes Monday, June 15, 2015

A special meeting of the Cambridge City Council was held on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 3:00 pm at Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge.

Members Present: Mayor Marlys Palmer; Council Members, Lisa Iverson, Tiffany Kafer, Joe Morin, and Howard Lewis. All present, no absences.

Staff Present: City Administrator Woulfe, Finance Director Caroline Moe

Call to Order

Palmer called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

Council Security

Woulfe stated that security is a difficult issue for public meetings and there are definite pros and cons of having a licensed patrol officer present at the meeting but there are no guarantees that the presence of a licensed peace officer present will prevent violence or the loss of life.

Woulfe noted that with the install of the security system at City Hall, panic buttons became available for front desk staff and City Council Chambers. The button when pressed will activate an emergency call to the contracted alarm company which will immediately call Isanti County Dispatch. Dispatch in turn will send an officer on a code response and call Chief Dwyer. (This system was tested at the meeting and the response time between when the button was pushed and Isanti County Dispatched sent out the call for service was less than one minute.)

Woulfe presented four options for a patrol officer at Council meetings:

1. Hiring a part-time officer for this purpose
(Cost estimate: \$225.00 per month or \$2,700 per year plus equipment costs of up to \$1,000. This is based on 8 hours per month)
2. Assign a patrol officer to attend the meeting on overtime
(Cost estimate: \$420 per month or \$5,040 per year based on 8 hours per month)
3. Use a patrol officer already working on Monday evening and take them off community patrol (Cost: none, except you take this officer off the streets do they can't respond to regular police calls. This would inconvenience the community.)

This also does not guarantee an officer at the meeting, because if there is a high risk call that needs back-up, the officer will have to leave the meeting to back up the other officer on duty. If this is known in the community, a person with a negative intent simply places a bogus 911 call to draw the officer out of the Council meeting. They are then free to come in and do what they want.

4. Assign the Police Chief to attend the meetings. (Cost: None. The Chief could flex his work schedule and stay home later one morning or leave early one day, but does lose time for him to accomplish his administrative duties which can have a compounding effect on the workload of the sergeants.)

Councilmembers discussed the pros and cons of police presence at Council meetings. Lewis moved, seconded by Iverson, to table this issue until June 2016. The motion carried with Kafer voting nay.

Local Option Sales Tax and/or Referendum Questions

2016 Election – Municipal Primary

Due to the limited time available this item was moved to the July 20 City Council Long Range Planning Session.

City Council Meeting Procedures

Kafer stated that when she attended Isanti County Board meetings as a reporter, the County would put times on their agenda items so people could know how long the meeting would last and when they had to come to present their items. Kafer felt the City Council could greatly benefit from a time schedule. Palmer stated she is adamantly opposed to a time schedule and indicated that when Woulfe first came on as City Administrator she recommended the same thing. The issue was dropped at this time.

2016 Budget and Long Range Plan Update

Moe reviewed the proposed 2016 budget and long range plan update. Moe state the following items were left out of the 2016 budget based upon the Council's desire for a one percent levy increase:

Shift comp plan funding to excess 2015 building permit revenues	\$40,000
Shift flyover pictures funding to excess 2015 building permit revenues	\$30,000
Delay funding additional pavement management requests	\$100,000
Delay old MNDOT facility rehab for Police Dept	\$20,000
Remove funding for replacement of police squad	\$49,000
Remove funding for replacement of fire command vehicle (City's share)	\$21,000
Change funding mix of replacement for Crosswind Sweeper to reflect \$50K paid for by Stormwater Fund—Stormwater funds will need to be increased in the future	\$50,000
Other line item changes in all departments	\$40,000
Total to close	\$350,000

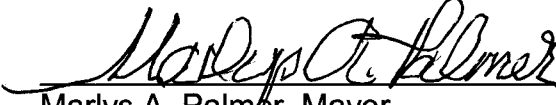
Councilmembers reviewed the long range plan capital requests and the tax levy summary which provided proposed levy information through 2025. Moe also shared the potential impact of levy increases on a residential property, small business, and large business as follows:

	Levy	Additional \$ generated	Expected annual impact on \$150,000 residential home	Expected annual impact on Small Business owner	Expected annual impact on Large business owner
2015 Levy	\$ 4,907,148	\$ -	\$0	\$0	\$0
add 1/2%	\$ 4,931,684	\$ 24,536	\$7	\$8	\$523
add 1%	\$ 4,956,219	\$ 49,071	\$14	\$16	\$1,046
add 1 1/2%	\$ 4,980,755	\$ 73,607	\$20	\$24	\$1,569
add 2%	\$ 5,005,291	\$ 98,143	\$27	\$32	\$2,092
add 2 1/2 %	\$ 5,029,827	\$ 122,679	\$34	\$40	\$2,615
add 3%	\$ 5,054,362	\$ 147,214	\$41	\$48	\$3,138
add 3 1/2 %	\$ 5,078,898	\$ 171,750	\$47	\$56	\$3,661
add 4%	\$ 5,103,434	\$ 196,286	\$54	\$64	\$4,185
add 4 1/2 %	\$ 5,127,970	\$ 220,822	\$61	\$72	\$4,708
add 5%	\$ 5,152,505	\$ 245,357	\$68	\$80	\$5,231


Councilmembers generally concurred with the following items:

Shift comp plan funding to excess 2015 building permit revenues	\$40,000
Shift flyover pictures funding to excess 2015 building permit revenues	\$30,000
Delay funding additional pavement management requests	\$100,000
Delay old MNDOT facility rehab for Police Dept	\$20,000
Remove funding for replacement of police squad	\$49,000
Remove funding for replacement of fire command vehicle (City's share)	\$21,000

Councilmembers indicated they may be open to a higher levy increase but wanted staff to present the one percent options and agreed to more discussion at the July 20 retreat.


 Marlys A. Palmer, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Lynda J. Woulfe, City Administrator