

**City of Aurora, Ohio**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 13, 2016**

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, June 13, 2016 the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chairman John Kudley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Kathi Grandillo  
Harold Hatridge  
George Horvat  
Dennis Kovach  
John Kudley, Jr.  
James Vaca  
Scott Wolf

Absent: Reva Barner  
Amy McDougald

Also Present: Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor  
Dean DePiero, Law Director  
Timothy Clymer, Finance Director  
John Trew, Director of Public Services  
Denise Januska, Planning and Zoning Director  
Jack Burge, Director of Economic and Entrepreneurial Development  
Karen Aldredge, Chief of Staff  
David Barnes, Fire Chief  
Robert Hagquist, Police Lieutenant  
Andrew Lumpkins, Police Lieutenant  
Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: Approval of the June 13, 2016 meeting minutes**

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on majority voice vote. Mr. Kudley abstained.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

(Attached)

**MOTION: To accept the May 2016 Finance Director's Report**

Mr. Wolf moved; Mr. Horvat seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Contract Agreement for Dispatching Services**

Mr. DePiero explained going forward there will be three resolutions, one for each entity; Hiram, Community EMS and the Village of Garrettsville. He said the contracts are all the same with the dollar amounts different.

Mr. Hatridge said Ravenna was also looking to sign a contract with the same entities. He asked if there are still in.

Lt. Lumpkins said he and Chief Byard met with the three entities and they are all interested in going with Aurora for dispatching services. He said they expressed the quotes they received from other agencies were far in excess of what they could afford. He said Aurora's quote was far better and would work for them.

Mr. Kudley asked if there are other entities that could possibly ask the city to cover them.

Lt. Lumpkins said at this time the city is looking at the Hiram Fire and Police Department, Garrettsville, Freedom, Nelson Fire District and Community EMS. He said they met with Streetsboro and divided the work load evenly.

Mr. Horvat said he understands the city would receive \$75,000 to cover two dispatchers.

Mr. DePiero said the intent is to hire two part-time dispatchers. He said it will bring the city's staffing to two dispatchers working almost all of the time.

Lt. Lumpkins said the goal is to have two dispatchers on the day and afternoon shifts and possibly part of the night shift at all times. He said they need to see how the night shift works with the call volume. He said scheduling may need to be adjusted to include two on the night shift as well. He said he does not believe that will be necessary based on the city's call volume at night and what the other agencies are reporting.

Mr. Vaca asked if the calls would be all police and fire action or just 911 calls.

Lt. Lumpkins said they are trying to eliminate excess calls and keep it to emergency calls and the police radio traffic that is normally generated. He said they will be working with the Hiram Police Department to limit the calls to only necessary traffic. He said they are also working with the Fire Chiefs to limit the extra radio traffic that is more general for them. He said the phone lines will be so that our dispatch receives only emergency calls.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the pricing is not based solely on two part-time dispatchers; it is based on all services. She said the cost is what the Chief and others felt was reasonable for the services; and what he anticipates as part of it will be to hire two part-time dispatchers.

Mr. Hatridge asked if a date has been set to begin the service.

Lt. Lumpkins said the Garrettsville Fire Department and Community EMS are currently being dispatched by the Garrettsville Police Department. He said their dispatch center is closing as of July 30 and we would like to get them running at that time. He said nothing has been negotiated specifically as far as a start date with Hiram Fire and Police.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the other agencies are comfortable with the one year contract.

Lt. Lumpkins said they were. He said if anyone is dissatisfied at the end of the year the relationship can be reevaluated whether or not it is a good relationship; to continue; or break ties with them.

Mr. Wolf asked if the service will cover land line and cell 911 calls.

Lt. Lumpkins said most of the 911 calls will go to the Sheriff's Department first then transferred to the city.

Mr. DePiero said it was thought that the one year contract was advantageous for all parties. He said it is included in the contract that Aurora will handle the hiring of the additional dispatchers and also that the entities involved will be responsible for the expense to connect to our center.

**MOTION: To forward to Council**

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Employees Generally**

Lt. Hagquist stated this evening a new full-time police officer will be sworn in. He said a part-time officer will also be sworn in with the intent of having him be full-time later in the year.

Mayor Womer Benjamin explained there are several current or pending openings in the Police Department and there are several good candidates the city did not want to lose. She said the Chief has been very creative as to how to try and encourage them to stay with the city. She said there is only one clear opening now and there are two pending or expected openings. She said the part-time officer was high on the list in another community and that is why the Chief wanted to hire him now part-time to give him the incentive to stay with Aurora.

Ms. Januska explained the inspector on the list was once full-time and was put to part-time. She said due to the increase inspections the city is bringing him back to full-time.

Mr. Hatridge said he is pleased the inspector is back to full-time. He asked if the inspector is qualified to do commercial as well as residential.

Ms. Januska said he is residential and is currently working to get his commercial and industrial certification for the basic building permits.

**MOTION: To forward to Council consideration this evening**

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Renewal of Firefighter/Paramedic Levy**

Mr. DePiero said it is a two-step process. He explained the resolution before you requests the county to certify the current tax evaluation of the city. He said it is renewal and once the city gets the number a resolution will be prepared to put the levy on the ballot in November.

Mayor Womer Benjamin emphasized it is not a tax increase it is a renewal.

**MOTION: Forward to Council for consideration this evening**

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

**Adjournment****MOTION: To adjourn**

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Vaca seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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John Kudley, Jr., Chairman

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Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council