

**CITY OF PRAIRIE CITY
PUBLIC SAFETY WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

The City Council's Public Safety Committee of the City of Prairie City, Jasper County, Iowa, met on September 22, 2016, at the City Hall beginning at 6:10 p.m., following the special council meeting, for a workshop to discuss EMS vehicles, public safety facility, and building codes.

Those present were: Mayor: Alleger; Councilors: Beiner, Burkett, Downey, Engle and Kuecker
Staff present: City Administrator Martin, Chief Bartello, PW C. Van Der Kamp, EMS Director Wenthe, and Fire Chief R. Van Der Kamp, along with Fire and EMS volunteers and several residents.

Administrator Martin stated this meeting has been called for three specific reasons:

- 1) EMS Department – New Ambulance.
- 2) Fire Department – New Facility.
- 3) Building Codes

Brian Leimbacher asked the Mayor if he could address the Council regarding the City's building codes. Mayor Alleger gave him the floor. Mr. Leimbacher read from a prepared statement explaining his issues and concerns with the City's current building permit process. He noted that he received a phone call from Jason Van Ausdall, the City Building Inspector, informing him that he needed to submit a building permit for the renovations he was currently doing in his basement. He explained that he had sought the advice of a licensed electrician as well as a contractor as he undertook his project. Both informed him that he did not need a building permit. He stated that he checked the City's website and found the building code information to be hard to understand (follow), and that the FAQ (frequently asked questions) section was vague. He asked who has oversight when it comes to building inspector. Lengthy discussion followed over the current process and the need to clarify. Administrator Martin informed the Council that our Building Inspector, Jason Van Ausdall, will be present at the October 5 council meeting. Council thanked Mr. Leimbacher for sharing his concerns and noted that they would be discussing this further at the October 5 council meeting.

EMS Department – Ambulance purchase: EMS Director, Cody Wenthe, shared a power-point presentation describing the 2-options available, Type 1 (truck chassis) and Type 3 (van chassis), body/chassis options, along with the pros and cons of each. Discussion included wants, needs, price, available funds, and new versus used. The new options discussed include NEW chassis with a refurbished box. A refurbished box is one that has been stripped down to the shell and rebuilt. Prices given were from \$100,000-\$120,000 for a new Type 3 (van chassis), \$165,000-\$185,000 for a new Type 1 (truck chassis), and a used Type 1 for \$120,000. Following discussion on the used options, 2 points were well made. First, those individuals who donated money for a new ambulance should be informed of the option to buy a good used vehicle; and, they should be given the opportunity to contact the Rescue Association or the City to voice their opinion. Secondly, before making any offer on a used vehicle, members of the Department should be able to test drive the vehicle. No recommendations were made at this time.

Fire Department-facility: Chief Ryan Van Der Kamp, with the help of Chief Bartello provided the council with a packet of information including call volume, and 3 building options. Chief Van Der Kamp and Chief Bartello explained the various options and ballpark costs for each option. Discussion followed on the cost, including options for funding such as grants and low-interest loans, the need for an expanded facility, what will become of the current space, and the 28-E Agreement between the City and Walnut Creek Benefited Fire District. No recommendations were made at this time.

Building Codes: Discussion focused on language in City Code Section 155.02(3) and 155.03, and on prior discussion that updating our code was necessary to save resident's from an increase to their property insurance. No recommendations could be made, since the City's building inspector was not able to present at this meeting. This item will be on the agenda for the next Regular City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 5.

The workshop ended at 9:15 p.m.

Lori Martin
City Administrator