

February 17, 2016

A special council meeting of the Chapman City Council was called to order by Mayor Weishaar at 5:07P.M. at the Chapman City Office. Council members present were Lee Wolf, Luan Sparks, Jeff Blixt, Tim Jury and Jim Murrison. Also in attendance were City Administrator Austin St. John and City Clerk Erin Tilton. Also in attendance were Bobby Kamm, Ty Lemon, Emil Halfhill, Jamie Reynolds and Mary Stopper.

Adjustment to agenda: move review and discussion of police vehicle to agenda item #3 and move review and discussion of city engineer to agenda item #4.

Agenda #3 Review and Discussion of Police Vehicle

Chief Halfhill went briefly through the estimate that he received on the Durango from Stalder Auto Supply. The estimate for repairs, parts and labor came in at \$2,396.77. Chief Halfhill spoke with Joe Stalder and Joe was not comfortable taking the risk and giving our vehicles a clean bill of health if all repairs are done that he suggested. Due to time restraints, he was unable to get the crown vic over to Stalder's and neither vehicle was taken to a dealership to be gone over. Halfhill also presented to the council a sheet that showed repair costs since 2006 and went through the last several vehicles that have been purchased and how long the city had them based on the old files he could piece together. It was also stated again that the 2016 budget for vehicle repairs was reduced by \$6000.00 in hopes of having more reliable vehicles with less repairs. Chief Halfhill is comfortable saying that he thinks they might be able to get \$5000 – \$8000.00 for the durango on Purple Wave. St. John then went through a six year rotation and a six year rotation with a delay for vehicle rotation that he put together for the council to review. It his St. John's hope that they can agree upon a rotation, knowing that in order to get into a strict rotation there will be some uncomfortable years of purchasing vehicles for at least three years in a row before the rotation is set. Luan Sparks wanted to make sure that when putting this rotation into place, once agreed upon by the council, that the policy addresses the contingency of what would happen if a vehicle was not purchased on the rotation scheduled. By addressing the contingency, the council eliminates getting into this mess again. Mayor Weishaar wanted to confirm that the city could in fact afford purchasing vehicles three or four years in a row. St. John says that the city can afford for this to happen and there are a few different ways of going about it. Transfers from the general fund into equipment reserve could possibly be one of those options, which would allow the vehicles to be bought outright. Jim Murrison's concern is that the council can plan for how they see best but when council changes over time, is that going to be a problem? Chief Halfhill believes that it's his understanding that by putting it in writing and in a policy, you can better explain it to new council members coming in and what the justification behind it was. Jeff Blixt stated that he agreed that buying a used vehicle was the route to go right now but to fully evaluate the rotation he wanted some time to look it over and think about it. Lee Wolf agreed with Blixt's comment and also stated that he also realized that regardless of what rotation was put into place, the crown vic would have to be dealt with next year. Halfhill would like to see the council address the crown vic in November since they will be at least 90 days out from getting a new one in 2017. After looking at the Kansas Highway Patrol list of vehicles and different options that are available Chief Halfhill stated that he would like to have council's approval to purchase a used vehicle with a cost of at least \$19,000.00. He felt comfortable that he would be able to get a quality, used vehicle for that cost.

Motion by Sparks to move forward with a used vehicle purchase up to, but not to exceed, \$19,250.00, 2nd Jury, Vote: 4-1. Motion carried.

After the motion was made and passed Murrison asked about the idea of having the sheriff's department take over the city police department. Murrison had been asked by a couple different residents if this would save the city money. Murrison stated that he doesn't know if he is for it or against it but as a council member who was asked by citizens, he felt he needed to at least bring it up. Additional discussion may be had at another time in the future in regards to this.

Agenda #4 Review and Discussion of City Engineer

St. John started the conversation on the discussion of picking a city engineer on the concept of picking the most qualified candidate that best fits what the City of Chapman is looking for. This decision needs to be done without feelings and the decision needs to represent all 1,392 citizens. There is a checklist that the council can go through to see which engineers meet the requirements that the city is looking for if the council decides that they want to go about discussion that way. This would be the more ethical way of picking. The decision of which engineer is picked must be defended to the citizens, their tax money is what's paying for it. St. John stated that picking someone that does not meet all requirements is something he would look at as unethical. A qualification that he believes the chosen city engineer must have is the ability to answer questions about is the city's waste water treatment plant. Although there may be an engineer that doesn't have the ability to answer questions about the waste water treatment plant, but can answer questions about lagoons, Blixt feels as though they still need to be considered. St. John said that right now, the decision needs to be made on what we currently have, not on what we think we might have in the future. If the city eventually goes to lagoons, then the engineers can be reevaluated based on that qualification. Jim Murrison stated that the plant was designed by Wilson. Kaw Valley, at that time, had no experience on waste water. Murrison doesn't know what experience they now have, maybe they have grown their knowledge. Blixt stated they have built several different lagoons. Mayor Weishaar stated that BG won an award on a waste water plant they built. St. John wanted to make it clear that on larger projects, he has no problem with taking projects out to bid. However, St. John feels strongly that an engineer must be picked so that the city has someone to call when there are questions. The city employees has called Jim several times to ask questions, but he may not always be available and getting an expert opinion or second opinion is something that he would like to see available to our employees. Luan Sparks brought up that perception is reality to the public. The council needs to be very careful on how we talk about other people. Don't bring personal aspects into this discussion and decision that needs to be made, that's not what elected officials are elected to do. When credentials are lined out among all the engineers being reviewed and you have someone who has let all their credentials lap, that engineer is then not qualified. Blixt said that 90% of engineering staff do not have their credentials. Sparks stated that the council asked for those credentials to be in place when St. John sent out the RFP. Bobby Kamm stated that they do try to call Jim on different things and he is always willing to help. He, and other employees, do like to have second opinions and someone to call to bounce ideas and things off of. Kamm was speaking for Ryan Hall, who was not present, that he also likes having that available to him when problems or concerns arise. Murrison appreciated what Kamm was saying and agreed. He understands that they are comfortable with BG Consultants because that's who they are used to working with; Jim was comfortable working with Kaw Valley and Wilson and never worked with BG Consultants. Kamm feels like until the waste water plant isn't there, the city has to have someone to call if

something goes wrong. It was stated that BG Consultants has done nothing wrong. This process was requested. Typically you see every three years or so companies following this procedure to reevaluate. After discussion and hearing presentations, the council decided to go ahead and vote. Motion by Jury to retain BG Consultants as city engineer, 2nd Sparks, Vote: 2-3. Motion failed. Motion by Blixt to retain Kaw Valley as city engineer, 2nd Murrison, motion tabled. Amended Motion by Sparks to bring back Wilson & Associates and Kaw Valley for additional questions (2nd interviews), 2nd Jury, Vote 3-1-1. Wolf abstained. Motion by Blixt to bring back Wilson & Associates, Kaw Valley and BG Consultants for additional questions (2nd interviews), 2nd Wolf, Vote: yes unanimous. Motion carried.

Agenda #5 Adjournment

Motion by Jury, 2nd Wolf, vote: yes unanimous. Motion carried.