

MINUTES

1. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Mayor Labadie called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

A. Roll Call

Present. Mayor Labadie; Councilmembers Labadie, Johnson (arrived at 6:04) Siakel, Gorham, and Callies; and City Administrator Lerud.

Absent: None

B. Review Agenda

Callies moved, Gorham seconded, approving the agenda as presented. Motion passed 4/0.

2. SOUTH LAKE MINNETONKA POLICE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

City Administrator Lerud explained that at their April meeting, the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department (SLMPD) Coordinating Committee will continue their discussions about the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). He stated that in September of 2021, the Council had initial discussions about the JPA but was not able to get through the entire agreement. He stated that the Council can review comments made during the previous discussion and then review the remainder of the JPA. He stated that one of the questions raised by the Council at the last work session was regarding how calls are calculated and which city is charged if it crosses jurisdictional lines. He stated that he spoke with the interim chief and the new chief and was told that they do go through all the calls on those that may cross lines and if they cannot determine if there was a change and where it directly occurred, it sticks with the original information of where the initial contact was made. He noted that if there is a call that is less serious in the City and then it moved to one of the other cities and became a more serious crime, that crime would then be charged to the new city and not the originating city. He noted that there have been approximately 5,500 ICRs on average over the last five years and the cross jurisdictional calls represent very few calls because most are taken and resolved within one city.

Councilmember Gorham asked why the City had asked for clarification on that issue. City Administrator Lerud stated that he thinks the City was really wondering for the most part on calls such as DWIs. He stated that the City wanted to get clarity on whether there were incidents happening that were moving from one city to another and impacting a portion of the funding formula, as well as prosecution costs were being transferred. But he said after talking with the two chiefs, those calls are a very small percentage of the overall calls.

Mayor Labadie stated that she believes she had originally requested this information. She stated that she is a bit surprised by the response City Administrator Lerud got because she thought there would be more cross city stops. City Administrator Lerud shared that he believed a lot of the out of jurisdiction calls fall on the City of Excelsior because they have the events.

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Mayor Labadie explained that the Council had reviewed the JPA through Section 7, subdivision 1 and suggested that the discussion begin at this point.

City Administrator Lerud stated that the five-year reset has occurred, so the percentage split will now be set through 2026 and then it will be reset for the five-year increment again. He stated that his understanding is that all the parties are not entirely happy with the funding formula, so it probably means it is a fair formula. Councilmember Callies stated that there was a lot of blood, sweat, and tears that went into arriving at this formula and changing it will involve a major discussion.

Mayor Labadie stated that she has attended board meetings for the last year and knows that any formula changes recommended by the City will be met with a lot of opposition from the other member cities. She noted that she thinks the same gripes Shorewood may have would be the same ones that other cities had.

Councilmember Gorham asked if a change was proposed if it would require a unanimous or majority vote. City Administrator Lerud stated that the JPA says that all changes would have to be approved unanimously by the member cities.

Councilmember Siakel stated that she thinks every city has gripes about what is and is not working. She stated that even though there may be squabbling and going back and forth, she thinks, at this time, it is still in the City's best interest to share an agreement with these other cities. She stated that if the goal is to maintain a JPA, then that is the goal that should be in front of the Council in order to put together the best way to get to that end goal.

Mayor Labadie stated that currently all four mayors of the member cities have a very professional working relationship with each other and with the new chief, but knows that has not always been the case. She stated that in her opinion, right now, this is working and thinks the idea of Shorewood pulling out and having their own department would not be the right course of action. Council Member Siakel stated that she too thinks it is in the City's best interest to stay in a JPA.

Councilmember Gorham stated that he does not want to upset the apple cart and feels it would be a huge undertaking to start the City's own department. He stated that in the previous discussion there were comments made about the desire for more votes or changing the way the votes were taken which he does not feel are fruitful endeavors.

The Council discussed keeping the JPA versus creating its own department. They discussed details of the agreement that has the City paying fifty percent of the police budget and forty percent of the fire budget, and the fact that despite this percentage, they only have one vote.

There was consensus of the Council to continue forward with a JPA.

Mayor Labadie noted that in the past the one vote per city has caused major issues. She stated that it has been brought up to change the voting based on the percentage of payments or be based on the population of the city, but the other member cities will not green light either of those changes. She reiterated that the situation is working right now because the four current mayors and the chief are very level headed and respectful of each other, but noted that this could change in the future.

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The Council reviewed section 7, subdivision B and the possibility of establishing some programmed expenses in a CIP; sections 9/10/11, regarding the importance of the definition of withdrawing, adding parties, dissolution, and that the City Council should have the ultimate decision; section 14 relating to arbitration and mediation and who is responsible for paying.

Councilmember Siakel asked when this JPA needed to be ready. City Administrator Lerud explained that the existing agreement expires at the end of 2023.

Mayor Labadie stated that she believes the Council has given her good feedback to bring to the Coordinating Committee and explained that because this is still such a work in progress, she said updates will be brought back to the City Council during the process, with council approval required for the final draft.

3. ADJOURN

Siakel moved, Gorham seconded, Adjourning the City Council Work Session Meeting of March 14, 2022, at 6:47 P.M. Motion passed 5/0.

ATTEST:



Sandie Thone, City Clerk



Jennifer Labadie, Mayor