

CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Warden called the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Rainer, Elder, Everett, Taylor, Troemel, Hamilton, and Becken were present.

DISCUSSION

SECOMM Dispatch Discussion

Mayor Warden stated it is his and staff's recommendation to Council to move forward with contracting dispatch services with SECOMM. Other alternatives to consider cutting from the budget in order to fill the deficit would include recreation services, Prosser Aquatic Center, contracts with other agencies such as Prosser Economic Development Association, Senior Center, Boys and Girls Club amongst others. In those instances services would be cut or eliminated and the quality of life for the community of Prosser would be compromised. That would not be the case if Council ultimately chose to contract dispatch services with SECOMM.

Mayor Warden introduced Richland Police Chief Chris Skinner, Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) Manager Jim Barber, and BCES Information System (IS) Manager Doug deGraaf.

Council Member Hamilton stated Prosser Dispatch is a vital part of the Prosser community and is not the cause of a \$200,000.00 shortfall in the city's budget. Staff is recommending that the city outsource dispatch services as a means of overcoming the shortfall in the General Fund. There are other areas in the budget that need to be evaluated in order to find savings. Council Member Hamilton further stated he felt it would be a mistake for the city to outsource dispatch services and therefore cannot support contracting with SECOMM.

Council Member Elder inquired about what would happen to the municipal court in Prosser if dispatch services were outsourced. City Attorney Saxton and Prosser Chief of Police Pat McCullough addressed the question and explained holding cell and prisoner transport time procedures as it related arraignments. There was discussion regarding officer staffing and shift coverage in the event of an officer transporting a prisoner.

Council Member Troemel stated he felt there was a lot of misinformation in the community regarding outsourcing of dispatch services. He shared a previous experience that he encountered with 9-1-1 and reported on the tour that City Council made to BCES at the April 3, 2012 Special City Council meeting. Council Member Troemel stated he was impressed with the equipment and the staff at BCES and it would be in the best interest for the city to not get behind on technology and make a change. While the \$200,000.00 shortfall in the budget needs to be found, Council Member Troemel said he was not in favor of a tax increase. Either other services need to be cut over time, or the city should outsource dispatch services.

Council Member Becken thanked the members of the community who reached out to him recently regarding opinions about whether or not the city should consider outsourcing dispatch services and stated their voices were heard.

Council Member Taylor stated his concern with outsourcing dispatch services is officer safety. Having dispatch is like having another officer in the field because of the dispatcher's familiarity with the community. He reported on a recent personal encounter with 9-1-1 dispatch services and said he was very impressed with the professionalism and extended his appreciation to the staff present from Benton County Emergency Services. Council Member Taylor stated it was his preference to have a phased in approach to reduce staff through attrition and felt other funding

could be identified in order to balance the budget. There was discussion regarding call loads and resident caller identification.

Council Member Rainer inquired how the city would keep up with the demands and increased costs of technology if the city did not outsource dispatch services. There was discussion regarding Criminal Justice Funds and the restrictions of use of those funds. Council Member Rainer stated he had previously requested city staff provide an expense report of activity in the Criminal Justice Fund and discussed the handout that had been provided.

Council Member Everett stated that the main focus is officer safety and discussed the necessity to provide officers with the best equipment and technology available. If the city choose to retain dispatch services rather than outsource, it would not be possible to keep up with the increased costs and demands associated with evolving technology. There are tools available right now that the city cannot afford causing a current delay in the technology accessible to officers. In the last five years the city has lost four contracts with Benton County Fire Districts to SECOMM because of the costs savings and stated it would be in the be interest of the city to also recognize savings. He would rather have officers on the street with the proper equipment and current technology and stated he felt outsourcing dispatch services is the right decision for the city.

COUNCIL ACTION

CONSIDER CONTRACT SECOMM FOR DISPATCH SERVICES, CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH BI-PIN FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT SERVICES, BEGIN BARGAINING LABOR IMPACTS, AND PREPARE A PLAN TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE CHANGES IN NON-EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES

DIRECT STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH SECOMM FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Elder direct staff to negotiate a contract with SECOMM for dispatching services. Motion passed 4 YES (Rainer, Elder, Everett, Troemel), 3 NO (Taylor, Hamilton, Becken), 0 ABSENT.

DIRECT STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH BI-PIN FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT SERVICES

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Rainer to direct staff to negotiate a contract with BI-PIN for records management services. Motion passed 5 YES, 2 NO (Hamilton, Becken), 0 ABSENT.

DIRECT STAFF TO BEGIN BARGAINING THE LABOR IMPACTS

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Rainer to direct staff to begin bargaining the labor impacts. Motion passed 6 YES, 1 NO (Becken), 0 ABSENT.

DIRECT STAFF TO WORK ON A PLAN TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE CHANGES IN NON-EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES

A motion was made Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Rainer to direct staff to work on a plan to educate the community about the changes in non-emergency and emergency dispatch services. Motion passed 6 YES, 1 NO (Becken), 0 ABSENT.

Mayor Warden thanked the Council for all their hard work and dedication to this very important issue for the Prosser community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:58 p.m., Mayor Warden recessed the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council to conduct an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency and RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) that portion of a meeting during

which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy for position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress. The session was to include the Mayor and Council Members, Interim City Administrator, City Clerk, City Attorney, Police Chief, and Finance Manager. The executive session was expected to last for a period of 20 minutes.

At 7:18 p.m., Mayor Warden reconvened the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council and stated no action had occurred in the Executive Session. Mayor Warden stated the City Council would take a 2 minute recess.

At 7:20 p.m., the Special City Council Meeting was reconvened.

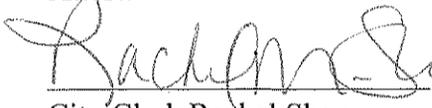
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Special Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:



City Clerk Rachel Shaw

