

## MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2017

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held at the Montrose City Office located at 141 Parkway Drive, in Montrose.

### ROLL CALL

Present Council Members were Mayor Colleen Brown, Christy Sanborn, Robert Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Richard, Tom Bigelow and Debbie Gross. Also present were City Manager Neil Rankin, and **two (2)** citizens. Member Eldon Dunklee was recorded as absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** NONE

### SPECIAL BUSINESS

#### *1. RE: PUBLIC SAFETY CONTRACT*

Bigelow started by saying that the City's proposal was 12 hour shifts and the township sets the times for the shifts. During those 12 hours, they answer all calls after the 12 hours are over they answer only the priority one calls, if a priority two call happened the citizens would call 911 or go down to the office to make a complaint. The Chief and the Lieutenant would rather have people call 911 than coming in. During those 12 hours they are doing the patrolling, it is eliminating a lot of nonessential agreed to things that cost them time and money, i.e. property checks, vacation checks, ordinance enforcements, domestic standbys, and gun permits. Rankin and he had come in and figured out the hourly rate to be between \$39 and \$40 per hour, the township was at \$42. Any priority one calls that comes in after the shift ends, then the City would be charged. After looking at the budget there is a window of \$20,000 to \$30,000 that wouldn't hurt the City to bring the total from \$180,000 to around \$200,000.

There was discussion over who would be able to write tickets for ordinance violations if the police were not available. The Code Enforcement Officer should be able to write tickets for ordinance violations. Rankin said the City Manager would fall as the Code Enforcement Officer giving the power to the Building Inspector based upon his component of building inspections. Mayor Brown questioned if the Building Inspector would have police backup if need be. Bigelow said if need be, yes and under this proposed contract if needed, court ordered or as a request, the City may have to pay the \$42 an hour rate. Mayor Brown said according to this draft the police are not doing it all. Bigelow said they're not doing anything but what Neil and he proposed. Mayor Brown said most of the issues can be resolved with a notice of violation. The City can send out a violation on letterhead before a ticket needs to be issued. Then when the letter doesn't get results a ticket can be issued. Rankin said he can send tickets in the mail and if they refuse to pay then it will go on their taxes. There was discussion over the need of issuing tickets for burning. Bigelow said the Fire Chief can issue tickets for that.

Mayor Brown asked Bigelow if he went to the Township with the intent the City wants to do a millage. Bigelow said yes, because the City is going to have to come up with another source of revenue.

Gross questioned if the City knows the court costs fees per year for the last three years contracted. What is being charged out per year to attend court? Rankin replied it is wrapped up in the Township's cost not the City's cost. The Township doesn't charge for that, it is

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currently covered under the contract. Gross said they recoup money when they go to court. Sanborn said if a ticket is written within the City, we automatically get that money whether they go to court or not. Gross was questioning how much money is actually spent with attending court even though it is part of the previous contract, and now with the new contract attending court is being cut and it will be a \$42 per hour charge if they have to go. Mayor Brown said that according to our contract we could ask for this information.

Mayor Brown broke down some numbers. On the old contract, the City has 24/7 police protection which equals to 168 hours per week and at \$42 per hour the total is \$7056.00 per week, which is \$366,912.00 annually, about what the City was paying. The proposed contract will be 35 hours per week at \$42.00 per hours, which totals \$1470 per week and is \$76,440.00 per year. The Township wants to charge \$180,000 for that same amount. So at \$180,000 it is roughly \$115.00 per hour. Mayor Brown said we could cut some of the administrative stuff to help offset some of the cost, such as property and vacation checks. We could do code enforcement on a per hour basis. Priority two calls should also be included in this amount.

There was discussion over the amount of hours there would be police protection in the City. Gross would like 12 hours per day of police protection, the Township is offering 5 hours per day. She further said if the Township is already going to have a 12 hour officer on patrol, what would it hurt to offer the City that? Bigelow said the coverage we have right now is because we are in the middle of Montrose Township, they are no more than 5 minutes from the City. Gross asked then why can't we have a 12 hour car, it doesn't have to be designated to the City but when they report to us they are not charging \$42.00 per hour. Bigelow said because they still need to pay for that car that is still on the road.

Arnold said there are a lot of things that we are not understanding. A police department has a lot of things that cost a lot of money. We are adding over 1500 more people that they are now responsible for that they have to check on. This is what they are offering. You get what they offer for the price they offer. If you offer less, you will either get what they offer or you can go somewhere else. We could get a 10% or 20% reduction with a corresponding reduction in service. There are things we can do without and can agree on. But this many cuts, I'm not willing to do it. Richard said he crunched some numbers and the City is subsidizing some of the Township's police protection. About 42% of their budget is being paid by Montrose City. We have 20% of the people but we're paying 42%. We're a lot easier to get to and patrol. We are being taken advantage of. Enforcement of ordinances is a necessity. You will lose people if you let that go to the wayside. Sanborn said she does not support going less than the 24/7. She understands the budget cannot support it and we are forgetting all the things we are receiving that we are not being charged for, such as liability insurance and upkeep. The Township knows the City, its residents and what is going on here. Someone else coming in here won't know things about the City. It has to be more than numbers on paper; we need to figure out what is best for the community. Take this to the people and see what they have to say about this. Gross said we're here to put our wish list in for what we want to see for our cuts and the wish list is to get a 12 hour shift, which is a compromise from the 24/7. Gross said she is looking to council to compromise for our money and ask for that and see what we can get. Bigelow said that what is on the wish list is everything Neil and he asked them for. This was the Township's response. He and Neil are going to go back with them again with the exact same terms. We're asking them for the same things we had before but only want to pay half. That is not reality. Reality is we get what they are going to offer. What we had talked about was the 12 hours, the

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priority ones and the priority twos, we still have detective access. We lost a lot of the perks that their department provided to us, which is more than the \$300,000 we were giving them for their police and fire. What we have left is whatever they are going to offer us. He further said if you think you are going to get a police department from Clio, Flushing Township, Maple Grove, or Birch Run to take a car from there and bring it here for 12 hours for \$180,000, it isn't going to happen.

Sanborn said we should send out the proposals so we know what is out there and what services are available at other municipalities. This will determine what is better or worse. We need to get an RFP out with an end date, so we can get together and discuss what is out there. We can also continue negotiations with the Township Police Department or have them submit another bid. She recommends continuing negotiations with them. She asked Rankin if they are able to get the paperwork for the bids to go out by the end of this week. Rankin replied yes.

The council came up with these requests to be included in the bids: 12 hour shifts, detective services, ordinance enforcement, and then the discussion went to the proposed contract from the Township and the different services no longer provided, gun permits, notary services, sex offender registration, salvage inspections, PBTs, DNA, warrants, civil standbys, recycle/trash reports, business checks, vacation checks and enforcement of City ordinances.

Gross suggested a \$44,000 increase to get twelve hour protection. Arnold suggested to request a reduction of 10% in the cost of the \$300,000 and maintain the current contract or ask the Township with a 10% reduction what kind of cuts would the City expect to get.

Mayor Brown went over what the City's is countering back to the Township: 12 or 24 hour coverage covering all calls, they decide the hours, off hours only priority one at an hourly charge, priority two and below need someone to provide an investigation and follow-up even if no response until coverage time or resident has to come into the office, discuss about the warrants and DNA and if the City needs these services, for traffic ordinances would like the police to write the violations if they are in our community and see the violation occur regardless what time of day it is, noise complaints and civil standbys still need to figure out a way to cover these because this is a high use service. Liquor inspections don't need to be included in the contract, it can be on a per inspection basis with a pre-negotiated fee and we can add this on to the liquor licenses.

Services willing to give up: gun permits, notary, sex offender, salvage, PBT's, recycle and trash reports, business checks, and vacation checks.

The City can handle the Building and Zoning complaints, if there is a problem can have the police come at their hourly rate. The liquor license inspection will be on a per fee basis, the owner of the business will have to pay the fee.

Mayor Brown went over the request for proposals' criteria. It was suggested to use the same services requested from the Township's re-negotiation only with 12 hours of coverage with the time limit to return the RFP's within 45 days. Rankin explained the procedure for a millage. Mayor Brown requested at the next council meeting to discuss the millage further. Rankin and Bigelow to meet with the township with the re-negotiations.

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Richard to turn down draft of public safety agreement between City of Montrose and the Montrose Charter Township. Roll Call Vote: Arnold – Aye, Richard – Aye, Gross – Aye, Bigelow – Aye, Sanborn – Aye, and Mayor Brown - Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS:** NONE

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:** NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

\*Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.  
Prepared by, Chrystal Raible, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer