

Minutes and Proceedings of the
City Council of the City Of Emily in the
County of Crow Wing, State of Minnesota

July 23, 2024
Council Workshop

THESE MINUTES ARE PARAPHRASED AND ARE NOT WRITTEN WORD FOR WORD.

The Emily City Council met for a Council Workshop on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 in the Council Chambers and was called to order by Mayor Tracy Jones at 4:30 p.m. Councilmembers Bryce Butcher, Gary Hanson, Andrew Hemphill, and Gregory Koch were present. Fire Chief Chad Genz, First Responder Chief Cary LeBlanc, Assistant Fire Chief Tyson Kinkaid, Assistant First Responder Chief Krista Kommer, and City Clerk/Treasurer Cari Johnson were also in attendance.

Development of a combined Fire and Rescue Department was discussed, including a proposed Fire and Rescue Department Ordinance, Personnel Policy, and Standard Operating Procedures. The main goal of the combination of the Fire Department and First Response Unit is to provide a pension for the First Responders. The First Responders must be hired by the Fire Department to become members of the Fire Relief Association, which requires an ordinance amendment. Once the First Responders become members of the Fire Relief Association, they become eligible for a pension.

Options for the combination of the departments include leaving the current structure the same or changing the structure of the departments. One structure change could include creation of an Executive Review Board to manage department hiring, firing, discipline, etc. with final Council approval.

There was a discussion regarding holding a confidential paper ballot vote for the next department election(s).


There was a discussion regarding having a truly combined Fire and Rescue Department with combined meetings or continuing to hold separate meetings. The First Responders would be able to attend Fire Relief meetings after combination. Possible cross-training between departments, meeting space, meeting attendance, and team building were discussed. Paging/call response options were discussed.

The discussed plan is to work on adoption of a Fire and Rescue Department Ordinance and then work on the Personnel Policy and Standard Operating Procedures revisions with input by department members. A Public Hearing notice will be published and the proposed Fire and Rescue Department Ordinance will be considered by the Council at the August regular Council Meeting.

MAYOR JONES MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COUNCILMEMBER KOCH SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL VOTE – JONES, BUTCHER, HANSON, HEMPHILL, AND KOCH VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.
The meeting ended at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:


Cari Johnson
City Clerk/Treasurer


Tracy Jones
Mayor