

**WORKSHOP
OAKDALE CITY COUNCIL
January 25, 2022**

The City Council held a workshop on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting began at 5:02 PM.

Present: Mayor Paul Reinke

Council Members: Jake Ingebrigtsen
Susan Olson
Colleen Swedberg
Kevin Zabel

Also Present: Christina Volkens, City Administrator
Kathy Laur, City Clerk
Nick Newton, Police Chief
Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director
Brian Bachmeier, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Jim Romanik, Public Works Manager
Andrew Gitzlaff, Community Development Director
Jim Thomson, City Attorney
Kevin Wold, Fire Chief
Loren Cota, Forestry/Environ. Services Div. Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
Dan Starry, Washington County Sheriff
Pete Orput, Washington County Attorney
Cameron McClelland, City Prosecutor
Stan Karwoski, County Commissioner
Kevin Magnuson, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Larry Eberhardt, Summerfest Committee
Pam Jungman, Summerfest Committee
Jeff Koosling, Parks/Building Division Superintendent
Jackie Knutson, Customer Service
Laura Linzmeyer, Administrative Assistant

3M WATER SETTLEMENT/WHITE BEAR LAKE LITIGATION/PFOA/PFOS UPDATE

Public Works Director/Engineer Bachmeier gave a presentation on the Final Drinking Water Settlement Water Supply Plan for Oakdale. The last update was done in 2020. The plan is to treat all of the wells with a Health Index (HI) of 0.5 or higher. Oakdale may want to centralize its treatment plant and seal the wells that are not centralized.

WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY, SHERIFF, POLICE CHIEF AND CITY PROSECUTOR

County Attorney Orput stated that Lake Elmo and Woodbury are being hit with many juvenile crimes. Mental health cases have doubled in the last two years with both juveniles and adults.

Methamphetamines are more popular than opioids. St. Paul and Minneapolis are hubs for the drug cartel. Once there, the drugs are shipped to other areas of the country. Drugs are the number one crime in Washington County and juveniles are being held at a facility in Red Wing, MN.

Shoplifting is also a huge crime.

The courts have essentially been closed for twenty-three months due to COVID. Only five court cases were tried in 2021. The normal is 50 court cases or more for that period.

City Prosecutor McClelland said gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors, and petty misdemeanors are increasing. The amount of labor involved to try a case has tripled and it is hard to get misdemeanors heard by the court. Theft, DWI's, retail theft and higher alcohol levels are up on first time offenders.

County Attorney Orput stated he gets all of the adult felonies and juvenile crimes and the city prosecutor gets gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors, and petty misdemeanors (including ordinance violations) for prosecution.

Chief Newton said he was fortunate to work in Washington County and that the city and county have a great partnership. He also stated that pursuits are up 130%. Catalytic converter theft is up 120%. Twelve and thirteen year old kids are stealing cars in the middle of the night.

County Commissioner Karwoski stated he supports Sheriff Starry and County Attorney Orput and that he shares the same values as them.

County Attorney Orput shared that the schools in Washington County have truancy officers in the schools and social services people that do checkups on students when needed. He has a "stay in school pledge" to get kids to graduate. The last 23 months has set his department back with regard to truancy due to COVID and remote learning. Parental rights are being taken away more often.

Council Member Olson shared that she had read about a sentencing guidelines grid and asked if that is something that is used. County Attorney Orput responded yes and explained how the grid is used and offered to return and discuss in detail at a later date.. Council Member Olson stated that you hear stories everyday all over the Country of people that have committed multiple crimes and they escalate with the increasing crimes, and they are still out and not in jail/prison. Council Member Olson stated that she believes people are forgetting about the victims. They suffer years and years of mental health problems.

Orput gave some advice on what residents can do to help protect from being a victim of crime 1) Lock your car doors, 2) Don't leave your car running with the keys in it, 3) Don't leave the key fob in the car even in a locked garage, 4) Keep your home safe.

Sheriff Starry commented that the police situation is not dire contrary to what is being reported in the news.

Commissioner Karwoski mentioned that there is more focus on mental health issues than in the past.

2022 SUMMERFEST

In 2020, the city did not hold Summerfest due to COVID-19. The money that was saved by not having the event in 2020 was used in 2021. There is little money budgeted for 2022. There was no carnival for Summerfest in 2021.

Chief Newton commented that he could not say that having a carnival for Summerfest is a problem every year. Juveniles do congregate and can cause issues, but he does not have statistics to prove how much of an issue it is.

Parks/Building Superintendent Jeff Koosling said attendance declined without having the carnival and thus revenues declined, but he will go along with whatever the Council wants to do. He suggested shortening the event especially if there is not a carnival. Having Summerfest one day only might look something like this: Parade – Bands – Fireworks and done.

Council Member Zabel stated he was in favor of spending \$20,000 additional for the event. Mayor Reinke also stated he supports spending \$20,000 additional on Summerfest and a discussion is needed on how the event will look this year.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned for the Regular City Council meeting at 6:55

RECONVENE

The workshop reconvened at 8:30.

2022 SUMMERFEST, CONTINUED

The council favored \$20,000 additional budget for the event held on Friday and Saturday only with a carnival (if possible with this shortened time frame) and band for Friday and fireworks on Saturday night. Council Member Zabel said he was in favor of spending \$11,000 on the fireworks display. The Council Members discussed a couple of different dollar amounts for the fireworks, but thought \$11,000 was a good amount.

The city website says Summerfest is on the third weekend in June. It's actually the fourth weekend.

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

City Administrator Volkens reminded the council that in late 2020 and early 2021 they discussed setting legislative priorities for the city. A short discussion was had with regard to Capital Improvements and specifically the pedestrian bridge along 4th Street and over Hwy 694. The council was supportive of the proposed legislative priorities.

Volkens stated that Oakdale should be a part of the White Bear Lake Level Litigation with other large cities. It would cost the city \$3,000 - \$4,000 estimated for Oakdale's share of a lobbyist. The council was supportive.

POLICE FACILITY DESIGN CONSULTANT

Chief Newton shared that plans are in hand for an expansion and remodel for the police department. He asked the Council to support getting three quotes to revise the current plans. More male lockers are needed and the training area needs revision. Mayor Reinke stated the need to stay within the \$15M budget. The Council supported Newton getting quotes for design revisions needed.

DISCUSSION ABOUT NEW FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE

Chief Wold discussed a new fire truck purchase for the department. The budget for the fire truck purchase is \$650,000, which would be spread out over two years 2022 and 2023 through the approved CIP budget. It would include the trade-in value of the 20-year-old ladder truck, which is estimated at \$65,000.

Wold said the best pricing they can get is through HGAC (government contract pricing). That quote was for \$685,226 with a discount or \$11,744 if the city pays for the chassis at the time it arrives to the factory this summer. Alternatively, they offered a discount of \$20,953 if the city pre-pays within 15 days of the P.O. signing. Finance Director Zimmerman said this was feasible per the 2022 CIP Budget, Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund. City Administrator Volkens suggested we only pay the chassis at time of arrival for the \$11,744 discount.

Mayor Reinke is in favor of paying the chassis then paying the rest. The other council members concurred.

Wold said the truck came in over budget and will only go up again in February 2022. He thinks the city may get more than \$65,000 trade-in for the old ladder truck.

CODE OF ORDINANCES: AMEND CHAPTER 4 – ANIMALS AND FOWL

City Administrator Volkens explained the research staff did because of one resident's feedback at the last council meeting. Ms. Volkens asked that one more tweak be done to the ordinance pertaining to permits for avian pets. After that, the amended ordinance should be set to come back to the council for approval at the February 8, City Council meeting.

FEE SCHEDULE AMBULANCE SERVICE CHANGES

The fee schedule that was approved on December 14, 2021 did not have the accurate fees for ambulance service for 2022. Chief Wold requested that the Council agree to make the change for the correct fees. This item will be brought back to the regular council meeting on February 8, 2022 for approval.

LIFT STATION 9 NEW PUMPS NEEDED

City Administrator Volkens informed the council that two of the four pumps at Lift Station 9 were in dire need of replacement. Lift Station 9 is responsible for 50 percent of the city's sewage. Volkens asked for a transfer of funds from the Sewer Utility Fund to the Utility Replacement Fund for \$67,000. The Council suggested that all four pumps be replaced at once and agreed to a transfer

of up to \$150,000. This item will be added to tonight's council agenda for approval due to the emergency of needing to replace the pumps posthaste.

COUNCIL TOPICS

Mayor Reinke will be out of town for the Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday, February 3, at 11:30 AM. Council Member Colleen Swedberg will attend in his place.

ADJOURNMENT - The workshop adjourned at 9:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Laur, City Clerk