

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 21, 2018, 4:30pm

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Pepin
Councilor Nancy Cameron
Councilor Kenneth Vincent
Councilor Edward Levasseur

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
Fire Chief Keith Hoyle
Police Chief David Kretschmar
Assessing/Code Clerk, Christien DuBois

The meeting was called to order by Pepin at 4:32pm

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Cameron to approve the February 23rd minutes, seconded by Levasseur, motion carried 3-0-1. Councilor Vincent abstained.

FIRE STATION-SITE AND FACILITY

Pepin asked Kretschmar for his input on the prospect of the fire station being moved to the downtown area. Kretschmar stated that the density of the downtown area may increase the chances of an accident occurring for the fire department apparatus responding to emergency calls. Chief Kretschmar stated that the Police Department moving downtown to their current address has had no impact on their response times, but many times their vehicles are already on the road on patrol so the two were not necessarily comparable.

Levasseur asked when the PD moved from downtown to Blackwater Road.

Kretschmar stated it was in 2008.

Levasseur stated that moving the fire station to the downtown area does not seem feasible when comparing the size of a fire truck in relation to the road width. Levasseur asked if the corner of Green Street and Lafayette Street is a less congested location. Kretschmar stated it is less congested.

Levasseur asked where in the City the most accidents happen. Kretschmar stated that vehicle accidents happen most commonly on High Street rather than in the downtown.

Pepin stated that moving the location downtown would place additional risk to firefighters responding to more serious calls. Cameron stated that she recently drove to the proposed

locations and stated that neither spot seems like a feasible location and is better to keep the location as it is. Vincent stated that fire stations are loud buildings and in a congested area would be a burden to neighbors.

Hoyle stated that he directed his secretary to map all of the calls from 2016 and 2017 and showed the Committee the map.

Cameron noted that the current placement of the station is centrally located in the City

A discussion occurred about the location of the calls the Fire Department has responded to.

Belmore asked how many structure fires happen in the City. Hoyle said only a handful and the majority of the structure fire calls the Fire Department responds to is for mutual aid in other communities. Hoyle gave a presentation of the response times to calls over the last two years. Hoyle stated that the Fire Department can get to all of the schools in less than three minutes at their current location.

Levasseur moved to recommend to the Council to not consider another relocation to rebuild the fire station and keep it in its current location, seconded by Cameron. Motion carried 4-0.

Belmore stated that he asked Finance Director Scott Smith to review how a Fire Station building bond would impact the tax rate right now compared to replacing the Police Station Bond once it is retired and then issue a Bond for a new Fire facility. Smith will have the information available for the next meeting. Belmore also stated that a timeline would be proposed at the next meeting. Belmore stated that for an architect/engineer would need to be considered first as spelled out in the CIP. Belmore continued that another concern to address would be continuing operation during construction of the new Fire Station.

A discussion occurred about the time table of being able to secure a potential bond and when construction would start.

The next meeting date was set to Wednesday, April 4th at 4:30pm.

Levasseur motioned to adjourn, seconded by Cameron. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting ended at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Christien DuBois Assessing/Code Clerk