

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Metro Management Council

Friday, July 7, 2023

9:30 AM – 9:55 AM

County Admin Building

415 N Dakota Ave

Members Present: Mayor Paul TenHaken, Commissioner Gerald Beninga (remote), Commissioner Deak Karsky (remote), and Council Member Curt Soehl (phone)

Attendees: Michelle Boyd, Aimee Chase, Drew DeGroot, Mike Gramlick, Jeff Gromer (phone) Dr. Jeff Luther (phone), Matt McAreavey, Mike Milstead, Carol Muller, Bill O'Toole (phone), Ona Reker, Ryan Sage, Regan Smith (phone), Jon Thum, Monte Watembach

1. Determination of Quorum and Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Beninga, seconded by Commissioner Karsky. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

2. Public Input

None.

3. Approve agreement between the City of Sioux Falls and Metro Management Council for City for Sioux Falls personnel to receive training and provide dispatch related services at Metro Communications Agency from July 12, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Interim Director Gramlick presented the Agreement between the City of Sioux Falls and Metro Management Council as drafted by the City legal team and reviewed by Deputy State's Attorney outlining Metro Communications Agency's reimbursement of wages and benefits associated with dispatch related training and services provided by city employees who are voluntarily interested in gaining dispatch skills and providing dispatch services in times of staffing needs or in situations when extra capacity for services exceeds available Metro staffing resources.

Interim Director Gramlick outlined all operational Metro employees worked an additional four extra weeks of extra hours in 2022 to staff operations – often requiring force hire versus voluntary coverage creating morale challenges. The purpose of the agreement and the Partner Agency Training (PAT) program is to keep required coverage down and mitigate force hires through the summer months and create a larger well to fill the same number of vacancies. Interim Gramlick shared with the council there are currently two city employee PATs who have undergone full training similar to new Metro employees with plans to bring in additional PATs with training and focused coverage on either discipline specific (fire/law enforcement) or non-emergency call taking workload. Interim Director Gramlick stressed this process is new to all involved and reiterated the goal is to take an experimental approach to current staffing challenges. To date, 21 additional city employees have raised their hands to assist with short-term staffing concerns and long-term continuity.

Chief Thum and Sheriff Milstead both shared their support of the program and the unique opportunities it provides to their employees in the case of long-term injuries and the opportunity it provides to Metro as both a short-term solution to staffing challenges and a long-term solution to ensure continuity of operations and continued, uninterrupted emergency services during times of system overload.

City Attorney Dave Pfeifle shared with the Council wages and other benefits related to PATs who are city employees would continue to be tracked by the City, and then reimbursed by Metro. There should not be any financial impact on either the City or Metro budgets.

Commissioner Beninga shared his support for the program for the reasons outlined and added an additional benefit of increased retention of Metro employees.

Motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement between the City of Sioux Falls and Metro Management Council for City of Sioux Falls personnel to receive training and provide dispatch related services at Metro from July 12, 2023 to December 31, 2023 as presented was made by Council Soehl and seconded by Commissioner Beninga. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

4. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Karsky, seconded by Councilor Soehl to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 am. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.