

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF
APRIL 16, 2019

The City Council of Medina, Minnesota met for a work session on April 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Medina City Hall, 2052 County Road 24, Medina, MN.

I. Call to Order

Members present: Martin, Anderson, Pederson, DesLauriers, Albers

Members absent:

Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Public Works Director Steve Scherer, City Engineer Jim Stremel, Public Safety Director Ed Belland, Police Sergeant Jason Nelson, Hamel Fire Chief Jeff Ruchti, Loretto Fire Chief Jeff Leuer, City Planning Director Dusty Finke, and Finance Director Erin Barnhart

II. Fire Department Update

Loretto Fire Chief Jeff Leuer provided an update on a meeting that took place that morning with the four Chiefs that provide fire services to Medina. Chief Leuer reported that the Chiefs had a positive meeting and discussed collaboration. The Chiefs plan to meet again in two weeks to discuss this further and deliver something in 45 days.

Chief Leuer also requested direction on expectations and definition of the response time requested by the City Council. The City Council discussed the minimum standard, cost benefit analysis, insurance ratings, community expectations for fire service, starting another fire department after 5 minutes as a safety net (St. Boniface and Mound model), and Medina being fortunate to have close to 100 firefighters serving our community.

Hamel Fire Chief Jeff Ruchti discussed how his Department has installed new steel lockers, vehicle exhaust systems, and dual hoods for firefighter turnout gear to reduce cancer risks for staff. The other Fire Departments that serve Medina are also implementing best practices to reduce cancer risks.

Council Member Pederson inquired about ownership in the fire departments with large capital projects, i.e., building and additions being proposed. Chief Ruchti stated that the current practice of full ownership by the fire departments would have to change, ownership by the City would be part of that change.

The City Council further discussed the preference for ownership/partial ownership of fire capital and facilities that are paid for with City funds, timeframes and assumptions made with the draft 10-year capital projections (worst case scenario), Medina not receiving complaints on fire services, and requesting a deliverable from the Fire Chiefs based on rolling a fire truck in 5 minutes and a full response by 10 minutes. Council Member Anderson expressed his concern about the lack of resident participation in the Fire Study and questioned how Council could establish fire safety standards for the four chiefs to respond without this feed-back.

The City Council requested the Fire Chiefs provide a deliverable based on rolling a fire truck in 5 minutes and a full response by 10 minutes. Chief Leuer informed the City Council he would work with the other Fire Chiefs to bring forward the deliverable in 45 days.

Adjournment

Martin closed the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Kathleen Martin, Mayor

Attest:

Jodi M. Gallup, City Clerk