

**CITY OF MERRILL
SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
(ORS 192.640(3))
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 1:00 P.M.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Carlson called the Wednesday, March 16, 2022, Special Business Meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken with the following members of Council and others being present: Councilor Johnson, Councilor Carleton, Councilor Baley, Councilor McCollam, Mayor Carlson, and City Recorder Hernandez.

FLAG SALUTE:

The Flag Salute immediately followed with Mayor Carlson requesting Councilor Baley to take the lead.

MAYOR STATEMENT:

Mayor Carlson asked that everyone please turn cell phones on silence. All meetings are recorded. When addressing the City Council, please speak clearly and state your name.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Pro-Tem Carleton stated the public is invited to provide their comments and opinions to the City Council at this time on issues of concern. Non-emergency issues brought up in this form will not be considered tonight other than in this preliminary discussion, but if found warranted, may be considered at a future meeting of the city council. Public comment is limited to five minutes per person.

No public present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss Contract Options: Mayor Carlson stated three basic numbers: City of Malin was charging City of Bonanza \$63.00 per hour. City of Malin terminated police coverage for City of Malin due to financial loss. Klamath County Sheriff's Department charges City of Chiloquin \$63.00 per hour. City of Malin is seeking \$100.00 per hour from City of Merrill for patrol. City of Merrill is counteroffering \$75.00 per hour. In the event the offer is not accepted by City of Malin, City of Merrill shall approach Klamath County Sheriff's Department for police coverage. Councilor Johnson inquired to the number of hours of police coverage for the contracted price. Mayor Carlson stated 80 hours for two months, 10 hours per week, equating to \$7,000.00. Councilor Carleton stated the cost is \$600.00 per day and inquired whether the patrol would be when requested. Councilor McCollam sought clarification and inquired whether the contract is for when the Police Department is disbanded. Mayor Carlson stated the City of Merrill has no Police Officers. By standards of the profession, when a 911 call is made, City of Malin will respond. The contract is for police presence. Councilor Johnson inquired whether the contract is a temporary solution. Mayor Carlson affirmed. Public Works Director Matthews inquired about the time frame after two months. Mayor Carlson was optimistic that a resolution would come about so the City of Merrill could move forward. Mayor Carlson mentioned proactive budgeting for the upcoming fiscal year. Councilor Carleton inquired to the status of Officer Srch. Mayor Carlson stated administrative leave with an investigation. Discussion ensued regarding time, cost, and other avenues for investigation. The private investigator is \$165.00 per hour and available April 4, 2022. The conclusion of the investigation will be reported to DTSSP with a recommendation for a third-party police oversight. Councilor Johnson inquired to the investigative timeline. The investigation is estimated to be complete by April 11, 2022. Councilor McCollam stated the City Council needs to look toward future permanence. The City of Merrill could disband the Police Department and contract with Klamath County. Councilor McCollam, speaking with residents, do not want

to contract with City of Malin. Councilor Baley stated Klamath County's response time may not be immediate due to staffing shortage. City of Malin would respond quicker and cover the City of Merrill regardless. Councilor McCollam stated more in-depth conversations with Klamath County are needed to tailor the contract to City of Merrill. Councilor Johnson opposed disbanding the Police Department until the investigations are completed. Mayor Carlson and Councilor Carleton affirmed. Councilor Johnson favored a temporary contract before contracting with another agency or disbanding. Discussion of the investigation and processes were reiterated. Councilor Johnson inquired when the contract with the City of Malin become effective. Mayor Carlson stated, in practical effect currently. Marshal Broussard has been available and experience to date with the City of Malin has been excellent. Public Works Director Matthews opined Klamath County for a long-term contract due to less baggage and non-biased, though Marshal Broussard has been great to the City of Merrill and self. Councilor Baley stated Klamath County would charge more than City of Malin. Public Works Director Matthews replied with less. Mayor Carlson clarified Klamath County charges City of Chiloquin \$63.00 per hour based upon City of Malin charging City of Bonanza \$63.00 per hour. Public Works Director Matthews questioned Klamath County charges City of Chiloquin \$63.00 per hour. Mayor Carlson replied to date. Public Works Director Matthews questioned the City of Merrill offering City of Malin \$75.00 per hour. Mayor Carlson stated that is the proposal. Public Works Director Matthews preferred appearance over money. Mayor Carlson preferred the Modoc Model. Resident Cindy Taylor (Court Drive) stated contracting temporarily with another department would allow a comparison to how a local police department should perform duties. Resident Cindy Taylor opined the City of Merrill Police Department has been lacking in service as a private citizen or a business owner compared to prior service. Resident Cindy Taylor suggested temporary contracting with the City of Malin or Klamath County Sheriff's Department to see if the City of Merrill desires to continue with its own police department. Councilor Baley stated the contracting would temporarily be for two months. Resident Cindy Taylor stated City of Malin or Klamath County Sheriff's Department would respond before local police responded to 911 calls. If outside jurisdictions respond first, then Resident Cindy Taylor preferred to abolish the local police department. Councilor Baley stated police officers should be a City of Merrill resident. Resident Cindy Taylor affirmed. Mayor Carlson and Mayor Zieg researched comparable police salaries. City of Merrill is unable to offer competitive wages unless forming Lost River Police Department. Both budgets combined would allow for a chief, two police officers, and reserves. Councilor McCollam stated oversight is needed. City of Malin and City of Merrill has no oversight. Discussion of oversight and evaluations ensued. Councilor Carleton favored short term with City of Malin. Public Works Director Matthews stated the Merrill Police Department has administrative work Marshal Broussard volunteered to complete in the event of months prior, which would be another reason to contract with City of Malin. Councilor Baley stated the \$75.00 per hour is a counteroffer to \$100.00 per hour. If not accepted, then the City shall approach Klamath County Sheriff's Department. Councilor Carleton made a motion to approve contracting with the City of Malin for \$75.00 per hour, \$7,000.00 for two months. Councilor Baley 2nd the motion. The motion passed 4-0 in favor. Discussion ensued reiterating meeting discussion.

- Consider Intergovernmental Agreement: *Refer to Discuss Contract Options.*
- Resolution 2022-878: Transfer Funds for Budget Compliance: City Recorder Hernandez read Resolution 2022-878 Transfer for Budget Compliance into the record. Councilor Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-878. Councilor Baley 2nd the motion. The motion passed 4-0 in favor.

OTHER-FUTURE AGENDAS:

- Reinstate Municipal Court

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The public is invited to provide their comment and opinion to the City Council at this time on issues of their concern. Non-emergency issues brought up in this forum will not be considered tonight other than in this preliminary discussion, but if found to be warranted, may be considered at a future meeting of the City Council. Public comment is limited to 5 minutes per person.

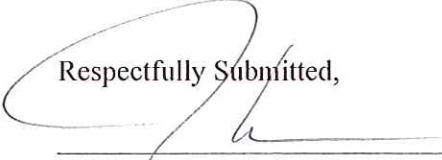
Public Works Director Matthews: Public Works Director Matthews stated Oregon Representative Reschke allotted \$275,000.00 to the City of Merrill for water sewer improvements. The City of Merrill received \$94,000.00 in ARPA funds. Discussion ensued whether the City of Merrill will receive another disbursement of \$94,000.00. Discussion of possible projects ensued.

Mayor Carlson suggested provided police housing as a benefit.

ADJOURN MEETING:

Councilor Carleton made a motion to adjourn the March 16, 2022, Special Business Meeting. Councilor McCollam 2nd the motion. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Carlson - Mayor

12 APR 22

Date



Rayna Hernandez - City Recorder

Date
4/12/2022

