

**ORTONVILLE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
CITY OFFICE MEETING ROOM
315 Madison Avenue, Ortonville, MN
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
3:30 P.M**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Mayor Steve Berkner called the Workshop to order at 3:30 P. M. Roll call was taken with the following present: Sykora, Dorry, Berkner, Hasslen, Hausauer, Reinke. Absent: Thomas. Staff present: Char Grossman, Jason Mork. Others present: Becky Parker.

POLICE STAFFING:

A discussion was held regarding the addition of one police officer to the staff. Mork has been calling around to other departments asking the number of officers they have and if they are having trouble keeping officers. All the surrounding communities are having the same problems, training officers and then they leave for another position. Hasslen suggested that we offer a signing bonus or some other type of incentives to keep our officers. Scheduling of the shifts is one of the reasons that we are not able to keep our staff. Shifts need to be rotated so the officers and the chief work different shifts each week. Our officers need to be more visible to the residents of Ortonville during the day. We need to hire officers that take pride in the community and are committed to the job. The Mayor suggested that we should consider placing our police officers in the Ortonville School as other communities have been trying.

Chief Mork was instructed to prepare information for the council comparing the cost of a three person force compared to a four person force to justify making a change.

EDA FUNDING:

Becky Parker questioned why the budget committee didn't fund the EDA. The EDA had prepared a budget and turned in the information in August. Mayor Berkner explained that the plan for funding the EDA had been discussed the past several years. Fairway View was built to be a funding mechanism of the EDA. Berkner asked if the EDA had discussed that since they would not have Fairway View funding how they would be able to continue staffing the EDA. Parker stated that the request was for the operating budget and they would keep their reserves for projects. The discussion was that the General Fund budget has a contingency line item which has been created to fund larger projects. The Council will discuss this topic at the next City Council meeting.

BIG STONE CITY WATER CONTRACT:

The contract with Big Stone City providing water to their residents will be terminated at the end of 2017. A letter will be prepared by the City Attorney for review at the next City Council meeting.

OAHS PROJECT:

Additional signatures will be needed on documents for the OAHS Project. The Mayor and Clerk/Administrator have been approved to sign the necessary documents.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

Mayor Berkner has prepared a list of committees and boards. The council members are to determine which boards and committees they would like to be on. Board appointments should be discussed and approved by the second meeting in January.

ADJOURNMENT:

Berkner closed the workshop at 5:15 P.M.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Steve Berkner
Mayor

Charleen Grossman
Clerk-Administrator