

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Pro-Tem Robich called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Councilors Robich, Pontinen and Vertachnik

Absent: Mayor Milos and Councilor Bol

Staff Present: Library Director Dabbas, City Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison and Fire Department Officers Skenzich, Kwiatkowski, Devich and Heitzman.

Councilor Robich stated the Minnesota State Auditor's Office said the city can use the rental income from the water tower in the General Fund.

Councilor Vertachnik recapped the annual renewals for computer licensing. CW Technology will take care of the renewals. He also reported that DSC will be removing the wiring and antenna at the water tower that is connected to the ladder on the inside. One of the ham radio antennas that is no longer used will also be removed. He again mentioned that Dale Schneider's equipment needs to be removed. Sakrison told him that the contract the city had with Mr. Schneider has been sent to Attorney Lindsay and she has not heard anything back from him.

CW Technology will be billing \$90/month/computer supported. The Server will be backed up to a cloud based backup. The software renewals and the contract will be about \$30,000. CW does not support the Tough Book computers in the police squads.

Seven computers are still running Windows 7 which will be obsolete in 18 months. A new VOIP telephone system would be \$14,000 - \$15,000.

Councilor Vertachnik wants to get rid of the Pontems software for the cemetery records and go back to paper records.

Discussion about the 5G system that is being installed to push the internet to the water plant. Because the water plant's elevation is so much lower than the water tower it has been an issue to get connectivity.

Todd Devich, FD Safety Officer, wanted to clarify for the City Council that Gilbert Fire is a paid on call department. No where is the word volunteer associated with the Gilbert Fire Department. All fund raising is done by the Gilbert Fire Relief Association.

Turnout gear and equipment for a new fire fighter costs between \$2800 and \$5000. Current turnout gear is 14 years old. That is four years beyond what the NFPA deems to be end of life for that type of gear.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar arrived at 5:50 p.m.

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When questioned about pursuing grants, the officers responded that there are currently three members actively writing grants.

The time commitment for fire department personnel is a lot. That is one of the reasons why departments are having difficulty getting members.

Because there was discussion at the previous City Council meeting about disconnecting water mains in the areas of Sparta that the leases have been terminated Councilor Robich asked what would happen if there was a fire in that area. The fire personnel responded that if the hydrants were disconnected they would treat it like a rural burn and call in mutual aid. If no human life was being threatened, they would surround the structure and let it burn.

The Gilbert Fire Relief Association moved the pension monies to MN PERA five years ago. The first five years the pension was based on \$1300 per year of service. After this initial five years, the service credit will drop to \$1250 per year of service. The relief association is asking for an increase in the service credit to \$1700. In 25 years the Relief Association has only asked the city for contributions twice.

The ramifications of the effect of letting the pension decrease were discussed. Among the effects is that some long time members may decide to retire this year before the decrease is effective.

Councilor Vertachnik would like to have the Fire Relief Association do fund raising to contribute to the pension increase. Safety Officer Devich stated because this year has had low call volume the annual payroll should be less than budgeted so if that excess and 2018 payroll excess were combined it is likely that would pay for the pension increase. If the benefit increase is approved, the payment does not need to be paid to PERA until December 2018.

Training for new fire personnel was discussed. Fire Fighting 1 is 96 hours and is reimbursed by the state. Fire Fighting 2 is all city expense.

The public works budget was reviewed. Lautigar asked to have amounts budgeted but not spent to be designated as reserves for equipment replacements. The lawn mower would be all public works, replacement could be close to \$40,000. Other equipment like the skid steer, dump truck and loader could be purchased 1/3 public works, 1/3 water fund and 1/3 sewer fund.

The meeting was ended at 7:15 p.m. when Councilor Robich left and there was no longer a quorum.


Debra Sakrison, City Clerk

ATTEST:


Rebecca Robich, Mayor Pro-Tem