

DIXON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Jessie E. McCully Memorial Library

200 South Pine Street

May 7, 2018

6:00P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. A quorum being present the council meeting of the Dixon City Council was called to order at 6:05P.M. By Betty Thilges, Mayor Pro-Tem

3. ROLL CALL:

4. Betty Thilges, Paul Watson, Barbara Thomas, Mycial Brown, and Marlene Blackburn. (Marilyn Timmons absent)

5. Pledge of Allegiance:

- Invocation, by Barbara Thomas

6. Adopt the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by all alderman present voting yes

NEW BUSINESS:

- Animal Committee

Mayor Betty Thilges appointed Diane Shultz a citizen of Dixon, Mycal Brown alderman, and Gary Brankel, Marshal as the Animal Committee.

- Restructuring of the Police Department

- Mycal Brown presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Dixon Police Department Restructuring Proposal. Brown reported that the DPD currently has four fulltime officers, five dispatchers, one reserve officer and the Chief of Police. The Pulaski County Sheriff's Department provides backup. That means that it may take up to 40 minutes for backup to arrive.
- The officers work 12-hour shifts with no overlap. The result of having only four officers is their working 84 hours per pay period. The long hours result in fatigue, increased risk for accidents and injuries, burnout and an increase in sick leave usage and is a detriment to morale. The number of overtime (approximately 200 hours per month) equates to a need of 2.38 additional officers.
- Overtime is paid at time and a half. If an officer makes \$12/hour, they must be paid \$18/hour to work overtime. The 200 hours per month of overtime costs the city approximately \$3600 extra.
- The Journal and The Dixon Pilot have run discontinuous advertisements for approximately the past six months seeking applicants for Dixon Police Officers. To qualify, applicants must have a Class B certification, be physically fit, be able to pass background checks, be able to pass urinalysis and be age 21 or older. These ads have resulted in NO APPLICANTS. Why is this? Compared to other 4th class cities, the salaries paid to Dixon's officers is much lower than comparable cities. For example,

Comparisons for the years 2011-2012 for 4th class cities compared to Dixon are as follow:

- **Other Cities (average) Dixon**
- **Chief - \$82K \$31K**
- **Sergeant - \$61K \$30k or \$14,42/hour**
- **Corporal - \$54K \$28K or \$13.46/hour**
- **Patrolman - \$48K \$24K or \$11.54/hour**
- **Dispatcher - \$40K \$22K or \$10.58/hour**
- **Plus Benefits No Benefits Paid**
- **Since Marshal Gary Brankel's arrival, charges have greatly increased:**
 - **2015 – 267 Offenses 316 Violations**
 - **2016 – 454 Offenses 1136 Violations**
 - **2017 – 406 Offenses 764 Violations**
- **Characteristically, when laws begin serious enforcement, the charges and violations will skyrocket, then begin to decrease as the word gets out.**
- **In addition, Chief Brankel reported that the value of stolen property was \$44,800 in the city; only \$2800 was recovered. "Meth is the main drug we are combating. Previously, Meth was being manufactured here; now, however, your stolen property has become currency for the drug market," he said.**
- **Investing in the Police Department will provide better law enforcement, a safer community, improved community policing, and a cleaner, safer park. Your lifestyle will be improved.**
- **Alderman Thomas stated that criminals are getting smarter. With only one officer on patrol, they know where he is and know response times. She said, "Without personnel, the DPD cannot keep people and property safe."**
- **Diane Shultz stated that she once had an emergency when she was a foster parent. She said one of her foster daughters was threatening her and others in the household. She called 9-1-1 and waited 15 minutes for an officer to respond.**
- **The plan is to hire another person in FY19. This position would be a detective position. This individual would also be responsible for maintaining the evidence room.**
- **It was asked what the starting salary for a Police Officer is and was told \$11/hour.**
- **One individual remarked that it could be an issue too that if people see something, they may be afraid to report it. Chief Brankel stated that folks do call, but with only one officer on patrol, he cannot be everywhere.**
- **When Casey's General Store is receiving a delivery, the truck parks between the building and the pumps. People are stealing gas – getting gas and driving off without paying – while they cannot be seen from inside the store.**
- **Alderman Blackburn suggested forming a Neighborhood Watch. This idea was well-received and may be discussed at a later date.**
- **When asked about current payroll, Chief Brankel reported the payroll averages \$10,133.06 plus \$3600 overtime for a total of \$13,733.06 per pay period (2Xmonth).**
- **If a detective is hired, it would cut down (or possibly eliminate) overtime and even with the detective's salary for that individual, the city could save between \$7K-\$13K for the remainder of FY 18.**
- **There are plans to hire four additional Reserve Officers in FY19. They would be on board in September for Cow Days. Last year we had three officers on duty plus a couple officers from Crocker and a**

couple officers from Pulaski County. The Pulaski County officers were pulled away to handle a situation elsewhere. The current Reserve Officer is paid part time wages and the DPD pays for training and uniforms. Chief Brankel also said that there are plans to add benefits (step increases, and health and life insurance) for officers in the FY19 budget.

- Diane Shultz stated that in the State Audit a few years ago, it was stated that the DPD and City Hall should not be in the same building.**
- Alderwoman Thomas said that if the two departments were separate, Chief Brankel could increase the cell capacity precluding sending some prisoners to other jails thus saving monies, and even possibly take in some prisoners from other cities and generate some extra income that way.**
- John Thilges asked if the DPD had applied for State and Federal grants. Chief Brankel reported that the department had received some small grants, but that they are not Federal grant compliant. In order to qualify for a Federal grant, they must be able to have audio and video recordings of interrogations. Not having those capabilities eliminates us from any Federal grant.**
- One resident stated that another vehicle is needed for the DPD. Alderman Brown said this will be discussed in the future.**
- Chief Brankel reported that last year the DPD received a donation from former Dixon resident and retired Greene County Police Officer, Dale Wagoner, for the purchase of firearms for the DPD. It has recently been reported to the Council that Mr. Wagoner has saved \$6K toward the purchase of another vehicle.**
- Another citizen asked how all of this affects other budget issues. Chief Brankel stated that his budget is separate from the issues being addressed by the Council.**
- Alderwoman Blackburn asked if any of the residents present were opposed to any recommendations proposed this evening. There was no one who expressed opposition to any of the recommendations.**
- Debra Lutz stated that she had called in about drug deals while they were in progress and a couple of days later, the same two individuals were in the same place doing another drug deal.**
- Chief Brankel stated that just last evening, he had arrested a female with two bags of Meth. She had to be housed in the Maries County jail because males are being housed at Dixon. Today she was back on the street. The evidence must be sent to the State Crime Lab; the Prosecutor will not accept field test results. Charges cannot be filed until the Crime Lab Report is back and that can take as long as six months!**
- Mayor Thilges said that it is wonderful that Mr. Wagoner is willing to donate to our Police Department, but it is the responsibility of all Dixon residents to help. This met with applause from all residents present.**
- Alderman Brown moved to restructure the DPD in this way: Hire one additional person (a Detective) and increase the salaries of all DPD personnel by \$2/hour; a \$500 cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for the Police Chief and to increase his salary to \$43K to be effective with the next election. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Thomas and passed by a vote of 5 to 0.**
- Alderwoman Blackburn said that fundraising events are held in many places; we could do the same.**
- John Thilges said, "We have a golf course." There could be a golf tournament to benefit the DPD.**

- One resident asked if an account could be set up at one of the banks to which people could donate. The answer was that this CAN be done.
 - Chief Brankel stated that the PD CANNOT hold fundraisers. He said they would love to hold bake sales, car washes, etc., but the law precludes the PD from doing those things.
 - Another citizen asked about a surplus auction of city property. Chief Brankel stated that the Pulaski County Sheriff could hold an auction; everything done must be in compliance with State law.
 - Alderwoman Blackburn stated that all citizens must act and work together on things such as Community Clean-Up.
 - One lady stated that she saw a lady several different times picking up Trans in the park. That lady was Alderwoman Marlene Blackburn.
 - Teresa Tibbetts said that when folks work to pick up trash in the park, they should wear gloves and carry a water bottle with them. When they run across needles, put the needles in the water bottle for safety.
 - It was also announced that another citizen, Mike Nichols, works hard keeping the park clean. A big THANK YOU to Mr. Nichols for his efforts.
 - BetyThilges stated that Connie Erisman of the Dixon Pilot is working hard to help the Council promote the city and the work being done by the council and the citizens of Dixon. Thanks to Ms. Erisman.
- Mycal Brown then moved to adjourn into Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Marlene Blackburn and passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0. The Open Session adjourned at 6:56
 - Marilyn Timmons _____ absent
 Betty Thilges _____ aye
 Paul Watson _____ aye
 Barbara Thomas _____ aye
 Mycal Brown _____ aye
 Marlene Blackburn _____ aye

ADJOURNMENT:

CLOSED SESSION AS PER RSMO 610.021with subsection (3)
 PERSONNEL MATTERS.

FOR ACCOMMODATION DUE TO DISABILITY, PLEASE CALL 7596115 TWO WEEK DAYS IN ADVANCE, BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M.

Minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Betty Thilges, Mayor Pro-Tem

Jessie Fleming, City Clerk

