

Pursuant to the due call and notice thereof, the City Council met in special session on April 17, 2023, at 7:00PM at the City Finance Office in Gettysburg, SD. Those present were Mayor Bill Wuttke, Philip Nagel, Michael Fischer, Fran VanBockel, Eric Ellwanger, and Seth Warner (via ZOOM). Also, present, were Greg Gerber, Maintenance Supervisor, David Mogard, Chief of Police, Sheila Schatz, Finance Officer, Kaylee Broker, Deputy Finance Officer, Kara Williams, Economic Development, Steven Zuber, EMT Director, Christopher Zuber, Samantha Shaw, Amanda Vander Vorst, Dustin Lower, Brad Saltsman, Curtis Hamburger, Sheriff, Levi Broker, Deputy Sheriff, Jalen Bame, Deputy Sheriff, Pat Everson, County Commissioner, Derek Buthe, Kristin Hawkinson, Jonda Johnson, Alfred & Judy Nagel, Darlene Potts, Linda Axsom, Hazel Langer, Mavis Jensen, Edith Schwenn, Darlene Potts, Robert & Carmen Thomas, Alyssa Roseland, Julie Schaunaman, Ashley Ruckman, and a few participants via Zoom.

Moved by Nagel, Fischer seconded, to amend and approve the April 17, 2023, proposed special meeting agenda to include May council meeting being possibly moved from May 1 to May 8, 2023, due to a conflict. All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was had on possibly moving the May 1, 2023, regular council meeting to May 8, 2023, instead due to a conflict. It was thought that the conflict got moved to May 11, 2023, so was agreed to keep the council meeting scheduled for May 1, 2023, as initially planned.

Appointment: Steven Zuber, EMT Director

Zuber discussed that, currently, the ambulance services in Gettysburg are hurting for volunteer EMTs to keep the services staffed as it needs to be for the number of calls it is taking. Zuber's suggestion, at this point, is that staffing through paid on-call may need to happen. Also, EMT staff has recently been taking a lot of negative heat and complaints toward their services when the public needs to be reminded that all EMTs are completely volunteer, and they are doing the absolute best they can with the numbers they are working with. It was discussed and reminded that the proper protocol for any type of complaint any person may have with EMT services should be brought to a council meeting and not discussed one-on-one or directly to a volunteer EMT.

Several months ago, it was decided by council the ambulance service needed a full-time certified EMT or paramedic on staff Monday – Friday 8AM-5PM to help with the daytime calls and/or transfers in which a starting salary of \$43,000 plus benefits was offered. Said opening was advertised statewide for several weeks and there was not a single applicant that applied thus the ad was pulled.

It was asked how the ambulance is currently funded. It was explained that it is currently 100% city funded, however, the county does give the city an annual stipend of \$10,000 toward ambulance. It was also asked what the call ratio is between city and county. Zuber stated last year 57% of runs were in town and 43% were out-of-town, which the percentage of out-of-town does pick up during the summer months when the river season is in full swing. Nagel stated that Mayor Wuttke, a couple of council members, and Steven Zuber, EMT Director, did attend the last county commissioner's meeting regarding the possibility of county helping fund a portion of the ambulance. The possibility of an ambulance tax district being set up the same as the current fire tax district was mentioned but would be a discussion that would need to be had in much more detail at a future meeting.

The idea was also brought up that a long-term possibility may be the ambulance services for the area need to be handled through a private ambulance service in which EMTs are hired, etc., and not run by either the city or county.

It was asked when the next EMT course will be happening. Zuber stated the next course will be starting up in late August, early September of this year.

Moved by Fischer, Ellwanger seconded, to approve Steven Zuber, EMT Director, to set up an EMT on-call as of May 1, 2023, which will be paid \$5 per hour for on-call, pending the city ambulance committee meeting with Zuber and EMTs to further discuss length of on-call shifts, run rates, etc. All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Wuttke thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Correspondence: None.

Round Table: Alderman Ellwanger, as well as several of the public, wanted to say "Thank You" to the current EMTs letting them know that they are all very much appreciated and are doing a great job. (Applause was given.)

Moved by Fischer, VanBockel seconded, to adjourn meeting at 7:41PM. All members present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Attest:

Witness:

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Sheila K. Schatz, Finance Officer

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Bill Wuttke, Mayor