

# **CITY COMMISSION**

## **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

February 11, 2020

6:15 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, O'Neill, Rue and President Copeland. City Manager Heck and Fire Chief Miller.

**GUESTS:** Mel Marsh of Acorn Consulting and Charles Patterson of the Clark County Combined Health District.

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### **HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:**

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, were:

1. Fire Chief Miller and Ms. Mel Marsh presented the recently completed Fire Rescue Division's Strategic Plan 2020-2024. The process included meetings with focus groups, community partners, and staff. Findings included appreciation for new equipment, firefighter/paramedic satisfaction, desire to improve recruitment and retention, need for station improvements, desire for training, desire to reduce high number of runs, and requested collaboration on mass casualty incidents/training.

Leadership, succession planning, compensation, and fire station challenges/improvements were also noted in the plan. As part of the process, BKV Group is conducting an assessment of the seven firehouses in Springfield.

Promotion of using the local 2-1-1 service was also discussed as a means of reducing the overload of assistance calls for non-emergent needs. Ms. Marsh thanked Commissioner Chilton for her work in this area.

Chief Miller reviewed the updated Mission, Vision, and Values statements for the division and thanked staff for their participation. Strategic Goals have been identified with priorities and objectives.

Mrs. Chilton asked for addresses of the three firehouses that require the most renovations. Chief Miller stated Station 3 on Selma Road, Station 6 on Ludlow Street, and Station 7 on Home Road were identified with the most issues including size for modern equipment and facilities for both male and female employees. Ms. Marsh added these buildings were built a long time ago and impact the functionality of the staff. Ms. Marsh also indicated a decision of whether to change a building or change the location of a station to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods is needed.

Dr. Estrop commented on the positive changes in recruitment efforts, his interest in the results of the firehouse assessment, and his appreciation for the collaborative efforts.

Mrs. Chilton thanked the firefighters in attendance for their work and support of the plan.

Mr. Rue also commented that employees who feel appreciated will stay even if the salaries are less than neighboring agencies. Chief Miller added changes to the recruiting and training efforts are making a difference. Retention of the employees is the first goal in the plan.

2. Mr. Charles Patterson of the Clark County Combined Health District spoke on the recent concern of Coronavirus which is impacting thousands of people worldwide, but there are no cases in Ohio. The local health district continues to monitor the virus information from the state and the Center for Disease Control. There are 43,000+ cases of the virus but only 13 cases in the United States. Travel to and from China has been shut down.

Cases of influenza continues to be very high in Clark County which is the second highest number of cases in Ohio following Montgomery County. The Health Department recommends washing hands, covering coughs, and staying home if you have fever, cough, and feel poorly.

Mr. Copeland asked if this year's flu shots were appropriate for the strain of flu in the area. Mr. Patterson indicated the flu shots have been somewhat effective although the strain has mutated reducing the effectiveness. Getting a shot is still recommended if a citizen has not received one yet.

Mrs. Chilton asked about planned vacations on cruise ships as they relate to exposure to Coronavirus. Mr. Patterson indicated the passengers who were recently on a cruise ship had previous exposure to someone with the virus. Travel for other locations has not been halted.

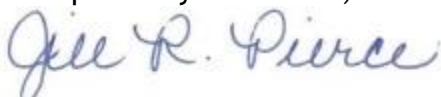
3. On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Adj. 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce, Clerk of the City Commission