

**Special Council Meeting
October 6, 2021**

Members present were Mayor Linda Spencer, Council President Trish Callahan, Councilor Stacy Equitz, Councilor Alvin Thompson. Council Vice President D. Oden was absent for the special meeting but attended the work session at 7:17 pm..

Staff present was Treasurer Katie Misfeldt and City Recorder Lori Paxton.

Audience present was Paul Price (BF Cafe owner), Hank Hobart (Port Ordford Chief of Police), and David Penkava, (Deputy Sheriff with Jackson County).

President Callahan made a motion to open the special council meeting at 7:00 pm. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion was carried.

Resolution # 622: A resolution authorizing the mayor to sign all documents related to the purchase of the Community Forest land. **Councilor Equitz made a motion to accept and approve Resolution # 622. President Callahan seconded. All ayes motion was carried.**

Resolution # 623: A resolution designating the mayor as a signing agent to acquire financial assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. **Councilor Equitz made a motion to accept and approve Resolution # 623. President Callahan seconded. All ayes motion was carried.**

Councilor Equitz made a motion to adjourn the special session at 7:05 pm. President Callahan seconded. All ayes motion was carried.

**Council Work Session
October 6, 2021**

Councilor Equitz made a motion to open the work session. President Callahan seconded. All ayes motion was carried.

Mayor Spencer said the purpose of this meeting is to get an idea of where we are at in regards to our police department and where we want to go with it. I have invited Deputy Sheriff David Penkava from the sheriff's office to discuss the possibility of contracting with the county and also invited Chief Hank Hobart to weigh in on the possibility of sending a cadet to the academy again, which is something we have always done.

Deputy Penkava said the benefits of contracting with us is you would get an officer with lots of experience on a vast array of call times, opportunities for deputies that have already got this type of experience and immediate resources of other officers and staff. They have a fair amount of experience dealing with lower crimes and serious crimes. Our officers are fully trained, have more availability and have different types of enforcement. He said even if you decide not to have a contract with us, we are still going to respond to more serious crimes and we usually send out two officers.

Mayor Spencer ask what the cost would be for an officer? Deputy Penkava said the money you have now does not cover the cost of one full time officer. The cost is between \$165,000 and \$170,000 per

year for an officer. Mayor Spencer inquired about a part time officer and Deputy Penkava said that is possible at 20 hours per week. However, that officer will not work in 5 hour shifts, most likely it would be two 10 hour days.

City Recorder Paxton asked if we were to contract with the county would we have to disband our police department, even if our contract is with a part time officer? Deputy Penckava said he didn't know the answer to that, he would have to find out. Chief Hobart said that decision might come from the county commissioners and the sheriff. Deputy Penkava said it might be a potential conflict if it was left open. City Recorder Paxton said what if we only contract for one year, and at the same time actively search for another officer, can we leave it open then? Deputy Penkava didn't know. He did say that contracts are usually one year, but they prefer three years.

Councilor Equitz asked if in that cost of \$170,000 were there any extra fees and Deputy Penkava said no. She questioned if we had no contract, would you still come up here? Deputy Penkava said yes, but only for priority 1 or 2 calls, the most serious. He said lower priority calls are not a efficient time of our uses.

Councilor Equitz said if we have a contract, would we have dedicated officers and backup? Deputy Penkava said yes and there is no charge for backup officers.

Councilor Equitz asked about part time hours, if officer is done with his 20 hour shift, would there be an additional charge on any calls handled after hours? Deputy Penkava said no, you would not be billed for more than 20 hours. We could put that wording in the contract.

Vice President D. Oden inquired about how often does officers patrol in this area? Deputy Penkava said he did not know but the majority that comes up is marine officers, Forest Service and BLM officers. They are either passing through or following up on a case.

Councilor Equitz asked if the officer would cite into our court or the county? Deputy Penkava said he would have to fine out.

Chief Hobart said Butte Falls is not different than other cities, there still is crimes, theft and drugs. There is a real need for police presents, but not much has changed over the years. He said a contract with the sheriff's department is a good thing, but with so few property tax payers creates a problem. Not enough money to make the job affordable to hire someone.

Mayor Spencer asked Deputy Penkava about code enforcement officers. He said Community Service Officers handle this and we can include it in the contract. They get paid less than sheriff officers, but there can be a problem is sending them out because they are not armed.

Mayor Spencer thanked everyone for attending the meeting and giving their input. She said we have a very difficult decision to make. Deputy Penkava said the department will still take care of the big, high priority calls. Maybe you can start setting money aside for a full contract down the road. 20 hours per week effectiveness is limited.

President Callahan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Councilor Equitz seconded. All ayes motion was carried.

Minutes submitted by City Recorder Lori Paxton.

