

On November 14, 2024, a Special City Council Meeting of the Minot City Council was held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW). Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Paul Pitner, Tom Ross, Scott Samuelson

Members Absent: Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ross led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEMS

MINOT POLICE DEPARTMENT AND MUNICIPAL COURT SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS STUDY

A.C. Capt. Dale Plessas gave background on the Minot Police Department and Municipal Court Space Needs Analysis Study. The process began when City Hall moved to the new location downtown. An RFP went out to provide the analysis study and EAPC was awarded the RFP.

Alan Dostert and Gloria Larsgaard presented the process and results of the study. Task No. 1 was the LEAN Process, which built a team of individuals. Task No. 2 was a current facility assessment. Task No. 3 was space usage analysis. The current layout of the building has many of the departments within the PD broken up due to natural barriers of the building and also how space was used prior to City Hall staff moving out.

Task No. 4 was to look over the growth projects for the next 25 years for staffing of the Police Department compared to population growth. Task No. 5 was space needs analysis comparing what the PD currently has for space with the projected 25-year needs. It included Municipal Court needs, special operation needs, and patrol vehicle garage needs. Alan discussed the additions needed to the existing building to include the patrol vehicle garage and a front reception area for the records department. Municipal Court and Special Operations were not able to fit with the idea of upgrading the current facility.

Alan presented the pros and cons to using and renovating the current space. New construction would be \$20 million more than using and remodeling the current space. The major benefit of new construction would be how it can be built to accommodate the need for the next 50 years. The study was done at the national standard of 300 square feet per sworn officer. Municipal Court would need about 4,000 square feet if it was a stand-alone building. There is an alternative option of the 2,600 square feet available space in the neighboring parking garage to City Hall next to the new Transit Center.

Council Member Blessum was looking to see what we could get done at a budgeted amount. Alderman Fuller would also like to see options for a smaller renovation plan to the current space.

The motion to option of \$12 million, \$25 million, and full renovation plan for the current structure without the south buildings was initiated by City Council Member Blessum, seconded by City Council Member Fuller and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Paul Pitner, Tom Ross, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

Gloria discussed how the library LEAN Process will be starting in December. The library will be getting a full space needs analysis study as well.

MI-4 SOUTH SIDE DISCUSSION WITH POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE MINOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ryan Ackerman, representing the Souris River Joint Board, wanted to discuss the area around MI-4 with the Library and the Police Station. The SRJB would like to receive feedback from the Minot City Council regarding risk tolerance for the municipal and non-resident buildings in the area. The SRJB is looking for strategies to reduce capital and social costs for the remaining areas of flood control. In 2011, an emergency levee was constructed by the Library to help reduce flood damage to the building. The 2012 preliminary engineering report includes levees and floodwalls to protect the south side area of MI-4. Ryan discussed many of the decisions made and how those decisions affected the 2012 concept.

Ryan showed the City Council how the Library and the Minot Police Department's elevations are compared to the 100-year flood elevation of 1557. It would be about \$42 million for a half protection option, there is a relocation option to include relocating the Library and the Police Department at about \$64 million. There is a hybrid option to relocate the library and flood proofing around the Police Station and the 6th Street Pump Station.

SRJB would like feedback on risk tolerance for city-owned facilities and privately-owned properties. SRJB would like to know what investment level is reasonable to reduce the flood risk to the Library and Police Station. The SRJB does not view this area as a high priority because it does not affect the residents, because it is privately-owned businesses and city property.

Council Member Fuller expressed that there is the possibility of doing the same process for another flood event by creating an emergency levee to protect the city-owned businesses. Council Member Blessum inquired about federal dollars available for the relocation options. SRJB would look at the relocation the same as how it always has been at the 75% state funded with the 25% local funds. Council Member Blessum agrees this might be an area to save money on flood protection, but it could affect the flood insurance premiums by not providing any flood protection in the area. Council Member Samuelson confirmed that if the idea is to do nothing now, the option to look at this later is available, because the decision does not affect the MI-4 project.

The motion to not move forward with flood protection around the southside of MI-4, but possibly minor improvements or emergency improvements could be made was initiated by City Council Member Blessum, seconded by City Council Member Fuller.

Mark Lyman, Library Board Member Representative, understands the conversation on cost, but would like to see the conversation also be about how both the Library and the Minot Police Department serve so much of the community. He would like to see a possible scaled-down version to help protect the area. He would also like the Library Board to be able to see this at one of their public meetings. Council Member Fuller reiterated there would be emergency levees put in place to protect the area like previously done in 2011.

The motion was withdrawn from the table and the council will agree with the SRJB route in this area being a low priority.

Discussion moved to the 1/2 cent sales tax for public safety. The Minot Park District 1/2 cent sales tax discussion will be on the Monday, November 18th Regular City Council agenda. Harold Stewart provided the options and information on the process of adding sales tax pennies. The special election could be scheduled in 2025, but the Minot Park Board would like it to be in the spring.

Council Member Pitner believes adding a public safety sales tax could take some of the burden off property tax and diversify our revenue streams. The decision might be harder by adding a public safety sales tax to the ballot with the Minot Park District 1/2 cent sales tax. Council Member Fuller would like to see the option of the penny from NAWs being diverted to the public safety sales tax in two years. He does not see how this would help with economic development by raising sales tax along with property taxes. Council Member Pitner believes it is important to see the options from the previous motion on the Minot Police Department renovations.

Council Member Blessum shares the same concern with property tax and the idea of a higher sales tax. Council Member Samuelson would like to see some adjustments to the current pennies we get for sales tax.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:59 pm was initiated by City Council Member Blessum, seconded by City Council Member Fuller and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Paul Pitner, Tom Ross, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

ATTEST: Mikayla McWilliams
Mikayla McWilliams, City Clerk

APPROVED: 
Thomas Ross, Mayor