

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY FUNDING OPTIONS

6:00 PM OPENING – ROLL CALL

Mayor Mike Reuter opened the workshop. Councilmembers present were Sandra Macias, Mike Dennis Langham, Rosemary Brinson Siipola, and Mary Putka. Councilmember Mike Truesdell was absent. City staff present were City Administrator Adam Smee, Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Ralph Herrera. City Attorney Sam Satterfield was also present. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

A. Parameters for the Workshop

Mayor Reuter and Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster explained how the workshop would flow and work.

1. Not a Public Hearing – Limited public comments will be allowed regarding the funding options only. Polite and respectful comments are welcomed.
2. Workshops are for providing detailed information to the Council for their consideration. No decisions are finalized at a workshop.
3. Information on the location decision will be presented, but will not be up for discussion.

Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster and City Administrator Adam Smee provided a power point presentation. Ms. McMaster did a quick review of the sites that the City staff and Council have considered for the location of the Police Department. Based on the discussion that began during the open house, the focus of the audience was the current City Hall location and what it would take to make it work for the Police. Administrator Smee asked Police Chief Ralph Herrera to explain the needs of a police station.

Chief Herrera explained the value a fully equipped facility has not only for the officers that work there but for the community. He explained the needs for secure areas for evidence handling and storage, secure areas for records, security for the staff and for the public and why holding cells are needed. Proper handling of evidence is vital in preparing cases so they can be prosecuted. The most questions were regarding the holding cells, as the City has not had more than a small closet like space in the past. Chief Herrera explained that laws require him to separate men and women or adults and juveniles which is why there is a need for two. While investigating any incident, the officers may need to question witnesses and suspects, and while doing so need to secure any prisoner so that witnesses, the public and all his staff are not endangered. Currently handcuffing them to an unsecured bench in the reception area is completely inadequate and a great potential liability to the City. Chief Herrera explained that while he can't speak to what Kalama has had in the past, as he wasn't here, he believes it is his job to provide his knowledge and experience to provide the best for the department, the community, and help protect the City from any liability. Kalama's department has operated without best practices for a long time and he does not want that to continue.

Administrator Smee explained that the new facility would be a public safety facility as well as the police department. This will provide the City a site to be used during emergencies as a command center providing for a second base in the community, with the first being the Fire Station on Todd Road. When asked what kind of emergencies does the City have, it was noted floods, earthquakes, as well potential issues from the railroad, I5, and industrial sites.

At about 6:30, Mayor Reuter noted he had been notified that the roads are becoming hazardous so due to the weather, he would be continuing the workshop. The Council and Mayor agreed to continue the workshop to next Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6pm. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 pm. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.

Mike Reuter - Mayor

Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer

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