

**CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 20, 2020**

1. Call to Order: 1:30 p.m. via Zoom Web Conference

- Mayor Lawrence called the Clearwater City Council to order Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 1:33 p.m. via Zoom Web Conference. Members present were Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Petty, Kruchten, Scott, and Crandall. Also present was Administrator Smythe and guests from Clearwater and Lynden Townships.

2. Consider Fire Contract Proposal

- At the last meeting on this topic, there was a consensus among the three entities to bring back two calculation methods outlined at the meeting. These are shown in the materials as method 1 and method 2. Staff added secondary calculations of each using a proposed 2021 budget to show the impact of the debt for the new fire truck purchase authorized by the City Council earlier this year. City staff also produced a draft contract for consideration utilizing a template from the Minnesota Association of Townships and adding in several new items requested by the townships. There were some reports requested by the townships which were excluded because they are not reports the city currently creates.
- At the start of the meeting, the township representatives that were present expressed a preference for method 1, while the city council preferred method 2. A lengthy debate ensued about the merits and fairness level of each method, but no agreement was reached.
- Next considered was the proposed contract language. Members of all entities had additional concerns. City Council members expressed that the agreement was not fair to the city, as the city covers the lion's share of the costs but doesn't participate equally in the benefits. Townships expressed that the city has too much control and they wanted more input into operations. Townships also expressed that they want more data from the city. There was a debate over what data should be provided. Discussion then circled back to disagreement over the cost sharing.
- Clearwater Board Member Rose Thelen suggested a third method of splitting the costs. Members had some concerns and wanted additional time to review the details of the "Rose Method".
- Mike Couri, township attorney, suggested that if members could agree on a calculation method, the other contract terms could be taken offline to a smaller group. He also suggested the townships are discussing options that include not getting service from the city. Member Petty asked if the city should also be considering other options. Couri stated the townships intend to stay with the city for 2021 but he does not know beyond that.
- Member Lawrence suggested reconvening at a future date after each entity has time to consider various factors. Smythe will send out the new calculation referred to as the "Rose Method" to the city council and town clerks.
- Clearwater Township Chair Bill Langenbacher thanked everyone for their efforts to date.

3. Adjournment

- **MOTION** to adjourn by Crandall, seconded by Scott, all voted aye.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator

APPROVED



Andrea Lawrence, Mayor