

**Hastings, Minnesota
City Council Workshop
May 15, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a workshop on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Volunteer Room at the Hastings City Hall, 101 East 4th Street, Hastings, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Fasbender, Councilmembers, Haus, Folch, Fox, Leifeld, Pemble
Members Absent: Councilmember Lund
Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Wietecha
Assistant City Administrator Kelly Murtaugh
Fire Chief John Townsend

Mayor Fasbender called the workshop to order at 5:35 p.m., welcoming Councilmembers and staff to discuss the recommendations of the Fire Study that was completed in 2022. Chief Townsend presented the summary of items discussed with the Public Safety Committee. He presented the short- and long-term goals. Short-term goal recommendations include setting/adopting performance measures, better utilize records management system, space needs at fire station, size of duty crew, and additional staff needs.

Council discussion on the records management system capabilities and the best location for a station, if moved, and the use of the data to help determine the best choice for existing space utilization or possible advantage of a different location. Council discussion on rolling out the performance metrics, how they are selected, and the impact of city growth on response time.

Townsend reviewed the long-term goals. These include continued work with performance measures to guide staffing, space needs at fire station, monitor the POC staffing model, and size of duty crew. He then reviewed the barriers to the goals related to space needs for dorms, restroom/locker rooms, and exercise space. Funding will be needed for the cost of equipment, personnel, and space remodel.

Townsend reviewed the culture/climate of the department that has been improving over the last few years with a variety of activities, equipment updates, mental health support, and personnel changes that have been put in place.

Townsend reviewed the department priorities based on the study recommendations: Adopt performance measures, address space needs, reconfigure the records management system, fund additional fire staff, train/monitor paid on-call program, and continue the rightsizing of the fleet.

Council discussion on the challenge in recruiting paid on-call firefighter/EMTs and benefits/difficulties of the current model. Further discussion on the resources needed to keep firefighters that are hired by the City. Further Council discussion on planning for space needs,

options, and timing of potential space updates. Council discussion on specific requests for the Fire Department priorities in the short- and long-term, possibility of a space needs study.

Council recommendations include investing in a space needs study, funding for two of the four 2023 approved positions (two were covered by 2023 levy, two with one-time funds), and adopt performance measures as guided by the study.

The workshop adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Mary D. Fasbender, Mayor

Kelly Murtaugh, City Clerk