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**Council Work Session Minutes
Fire Task Force Recommendations**

**Monday, January 13, 2020
8:45 p.m., Community Auditorium**

***Minutes are unofficial until approved by Council.
Council approved minutes as presented February 24, 2020.***

1. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Peter Truax called the Work Session to order at 9:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL: COUNCIL PRESENT: Timothy Rippe; Ronald Thompson; Elena Uhing; Mariana Valenzuela; Adolph “Val” Valfre; Malynda Wenzl; and Mayor Peter Truax.

STAFF PRESENT: Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager; Paul Downey, Administrative Services Director; Michael Kinkade, Fire Chief; and Anna Ruggles, City Recorder.

2. WORK SESSION: WASHINGTON COUNTY FIRE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire Chief Kinkade and VanderZanden facilitated the above-noted Council work session, noting the purpose of the work session was to give Council an overview of the Washington County Fire Task Force’s recommendations. Chief Kinkade noted the presentation this evening is the same presentation that has been presented to the other four governing agencies. Kinkade introduced Rob Massar who gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the Western Washington County Fire Task Force, which was established October 2018, with the goal of looking at potential governance models and providing a consensus proposal to the five governing agencies. The Task Force developed a set of Foundation Principles, which were adopted by all five governing agencies in April 2019, as the basis and criteria by which the Task Force would evaluate potential governance models. The Task Force also developed a rating matrix using the adopted Foundational Principles, which will serve as summary support and documentation of the Task Force organizational structure evaluation and recommendation. The Task Force studied three potential governance models: 1) Status Quo; 2) Fire Authority; and 3) Fire District. In conclusion of the above-noted report, Kinkade and Massar advised the Task Force unanimously recommended a Fire District governance model was the preferred organizational structure to be pursued as the next phase, and the other four agencies have supported the findings of the Task Force.

Council Discussion:

Mayor Truax opened the floor and roundtable discussion ensued as the Council had an opportunity to review the Task Force’s findings and considerations used to evaluate the governance options for providing fire service in Western Washington County and the Total Organizational Structure Rating Matrix. Kinkade and Massar addressed various

Council inquiries and concerns pertaining to the Fire District governance and operational structure, noting as outlined in the flow chart, if a Fire District is pursued, a vote of the people must approve the District, i.e., with its own taxing and bonding authority and apportioned into five areas, with a five-member Board of Directors elected from each area, and capital equipment and taxing authority funded directly by one property tax, and personnel would be employed by the District, into a single, unified command structure, and all existing staff would be maintained. In conclusion of the above-noted discussion, Council collectively concurred with the next phase of the Task Force studying the legal and financial framework for pursuing a Fire District governance and reporting back to Council.

Council took no formal action nor made any formal decisions during the work session.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Truax adjourned the Council work session at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna D. Ruggles, CMC, City Recorder