



Minutes of the Roy City Council Work Session held in person in the Roy City Council Chambers and streamed on YouTube on April 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the Utah Public Notice Website at least 24 hours in advance. A copy of the agenda was also posted on the Roy City website.

The following members were in attendance:

Mayor Dandoy
Councilmember Jackson
Councilmember Joe Paul
Councilmember Scadden
Councilmember Saxton
Councilmember Sophie Paul

City Manager, Matt Andrews
City Attorney, Matt Wilson
City Recorder, Brittany Fowers

Excused:

Also present were: Assistant City Manager, Brody Flint; Fire Chief, Theron Williams;

A. Welcome & Roll Call

Mayor Dandoy welcomed those in attendance and noted Councilmembers Jackson, Wilson, Sophie Paul, Scadden, and Joe Paul were present. Mayor Dandoy clarified why the special work session was being held and confirmed no changes would be made this evening; it was only a discussion.

B. Discussion Items

1. Riverdale City RFP for Ambulance services

Councilmember Sophie Paul explained she wanted to call this meeting since two Councilmembers had been absent at the last Council meeting.

Fire Chief Williams briefly summarized what he had presented at the previous Council meeting. Mayor Dandoy asked if this was a public or private RFP, and Fire Chief Williams said Riverdale had sent the RFP to private companies, although they had not been able to manage the volume needed by the City. Mayor Dandoy asked if Roy City had enough people to support the requirement and Fire Chief Williams said their current staffing was sufficient to meet the requirement.

Mayor Dandoy recalled that a previous chief had told him that there was a minimum of four paramedics to respond to an average call, but six to respond to a cardiac event. Fire Chief Williams stated that was true and elaborated as to the reasoning for that. Mayor Dandoy replied he had asked this question in the past because he was curious why fire trucks responded to medical situations, and reported he had been told it was because firefighters were also EMTs, and Fire Chief Williams confirmed that was the case. Fire Chief Williams also commented that the Riverdale RFP was distinct from mutual aid, and he elaborated on how mutual aid agreements worked.

Mayor Dandoy then asked if they were required to send all kinds of emergency vehicles or just ambulance services. Fire Chief Williams explained that the RFP was worded in a way that might apply to all kinds of emergency vehicles though Riverdale was only asking for ambulances.

Mayor Dandoy noted the packet they had been given specifically stated that there would be about 450 transports per month, and of that, that they had gone into Riverdale about 100 times each month. He acknowledged some of that was from mutual aid response to fires, but he expressed concern that Roy was already responding to some Riverdale emergencies and would now be taking on all of them. Fire Chief Williams explained there was no reimbursement for the fire department to respond outside of their jurisdiction, but there was a different process for other emergency vehicles. Fire Chief Williams stated that Roy City would have received revenue for those responses in Riverdale.

Mayor Dandoy said this decision would be hard and the City Council needed to figure out how they would come up with the additional revenue. He emphasized that he did not want Roy City residents to shoulder this burden through taxes. Fire Chief Williams acknowledged this point, and discussed this had the possibility to subsidize their fire station and although it was a risk, it had the potential to be a source of revenue for the City. Councilmember Joe Paul added that the public might not realize that while they were taking on Riverdale, they were doing so to subsidize the loss of Hooper and West Haven.

Fire Chief Williams explained if there was a real concern that they would be overwhelmed with the call volume then he would be a lot more hesitant, but he felt confident that they could manage the volume with his staff. Mayor Dandoy acknowledged Fire Chief Williams' comments. Mayor Dandoy said he was thinking of a previous fire chief, however, who had told the Council that he did not have enough firefighters and the Council had voted to raise property taxes by 10% and hire two more firefighters so that his current staff could take leave. Mayor Dandoy recalled how the previous fire chief had pointed out his staff got burned out because they could not take time off, and he worried they might compound this issue if they made the workload too big for Roy firefighters. Mayor Dandoy said he was going to honor whatever Fire Chief Williams decided to do and trusted his opinion, but asked him to consider if he needed to hire more firefighters.

Councilmember Sophie Paul asked if Riverdale could request their license back in a year if they asked for it and Fire Chief Williams said they could. Councilmember Joe Paul added that Roy City also had the ability to throw the license back out to see if someone else wanted to buy it if they found the workload to be unmanageable. Fire Chief Williams acknowledged they would need to hire more staff if they found the workload to be too overwhelming, but said this should be manageable and said it was going to help subsidize costs.

Councilmember Joe Paul also commented briefly on the reasons that Riverdale was putting out the RFP in the first place and conjectured it was because they had gotten a stream of tax revenue elsewhere. Fire Chief Williams said he had not directly asked the Riverdale fire department about that and Mayor Dandoy said it was complicated.

Mayor Dandoy said this decision had far-reaching impacts and urged the Council to think carefully about the impacts of this choice. He specifically cautioned Fire Chief Williams to think about what would happen if his staff was not able to manage the influx of calls, and spoke about how the Council had some upcoming tough choices to make in May of that year.

Councilmember Jackson thought this could be a good way to subsidize the Roy City fire department without raising taxes and appreciated Fire Chief Williams' transparency. She thought it seemed promising for the City and was willing to give it a shot.

Mayor Dandoy opened the floor for public comments.

Clark Stevens, Riverdale, introduced himself and disclosed that he was on the Riverdale City Council but

was not there that evening in official capacity as a Councilmember. He explained Riverdale did not have the economies of scale to staff and manage a fire station adequately. He suspected that Roy was having trouble hiring firefighters and said this was a systemic issue. Mr. Stevens said that Roy City had a great advantage in that they had multiple fire stations in their city.

Mr. Stevens said that a City's property taxes should be sufficient to cover their emergency response budget, but that was impossible in Riverdale due to some of their other expenses. He thanked Mayor Dandoy for some comments he had made on Facebook over the weekend about Riverdale and for acknowledging some of the challenges that Riverdale was facing. Mr. Stevens lastly shared an anecdote about how his wife had been helped by a Roy City emergency response team several years ago and expressed Roy City and Riverdale had a long history of cooperation.

Mayor Dandoy closed the floor for public comments.

Mayor Dandoy said as long as Fire Chief Williams was confident that Roy City firefighters could manage taking on Riverdale, he trusted his opinion and was willing to move forward. The Councilmembers thanked Fire Chief Williams for answering their questions.

C. Adjournment

Robert Dandoy
Mayor

Attest:

Brittany Fowers
City Recorder

dc: