

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2010**

**8:08 AM**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PRESENT:** Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy S. Popovitch, Councilpersons Thomas B. Cook, Michael J. Erfourth, Christopher T. Eveleth, and Joni M. Forster.

**ABSENT:** Councilperson Gary W. Martenis (due to illness).

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**INTERIM CITY MANAGER CONTRACT**

City Attorney William C. Brown explained that he and Human Resources Director Jessica B. Unangst had been in negotiations with prospective Interim City Manager Donald Crawford to reach an agreement on the terms of his contract. He went on to say that Mr. Crawford's contract was modeled on the contract with the current City Manager. He also noted that use of the Gould House apartment had been offered in the contract. Lastly he indicated the name of Mr. Crawford's corporation had been added to the contract language.

Councilperson Forster noted that she had voted no to the hiring of an external candidate because of costs such as the contract in question.

Motion by Councilperson Cook to approve the contract with Donald Crawford for Interim City Manager services as follows:

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT  
FOR  
INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

THIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT is entered into this 20th day of February, 2010, by the City of Owosso, a Michigan municipal corporation, ("City") and CMP Associates, Inc., a Michigan corporation (CMP).

WHEREAS there is a vacancy in the position of Owosso City Manager;

WHEREAS CMP has agreed to provide Donald D. Crawford to serve as Interim City Manager; and

WHEREAS the Owosso City Council has determined that it would be in the best interest of the City to employ CMP/Donald D. Crawford as Interim City Manager.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the City and CMP Associates, Inc./Donald D. Crawford hereby agree as follows:

- 1. Employment.** The City hereby agrees to employ as an independent contractor CMP/Donald D. Crawford as Interim City Manager and CMP/Donald D. Crawford accepts such employment with the City effective 12:01 A.M. March 1, 2010. This agreement is intended to retain the services of Donald D. Crawford. CMP Associates Inc. may not substitute another individual to serve as Interim City Manager without the express written consent of the City.
- 2. Position and Responsibilities.** Donald D. Crawford shall assume and be responsible for all duties of City Manager as described and required by the Owosso City Charter and Code of Ordinances on an interim basis. Donald D. Crawford shall also assist the Owosso City Council in its search for a permanent City Manager.
- 3. Compensation.** The City of Owosso shall pay CMP/Donald D. Crawford an annualized rate of Eighty Five Thousand and No/100 (\$85,000.00) Dollars payable every two weeks beginning February 22, 2010. The City of Owosso shall provide Donald D. Crawford a cellular telephone and a lap top computer which shall be returned to the City of Owosso at the termination of this Agreement. Inasmuch, the City owns an apartment at 515 North Washington Street, Owosso, Michigan, Donald D. Crawford shall have the use of said apartment rent free so long as this Agreement is in effect.
- 4. Leave time and holidays.** Donald D. Crawford shall have such sick days and personal days as provided for in the City of Owosso Personnel Manual or as negotiated with the Owosso City Council. Donald D. Crawford shall be entitled to the same paid holidays as all other City employees.

**5. Records.** Information, reports and the like prepared and/or generated by Donald D. Crawford as a result of this contract shall become the sole property of the City of Owosso. Donald D. Crawford agrees that said documents are confidential information intended for the sole use of the City of Owosso and will not disclose any such information, or in any other way make such documents public, without the express written approval of the City of Owosso or the order of a court of appropriate jurisdiction or as required by the laws of the State of Michigan.

**6. Independent Contractor.** The relationship between the City of Owosso and CMP/Donald D. Crawford shall not be construed by either party or by any other person as one creating an employer-employee relationship. It is expressly understood and agreed that Donald D. Crawford is an independent contractor as that phrase has been defined and interpreted by the Courts of the State of Michigan, and, as such, Donald D. Crawford is not entitled to any benefits not otherwise specified herein. It shall be the responsibility of CMP/Donald D. Crawford to pay all withholding and other taxes attributable this Agreement.

**7. Indemnification.** The City of Owosso will at all times protect and indemnify Donald D. Crawford against and will save Donald D. Crawford harmless from any and all costs and expenses whatsoever incurred in a proceeding to which Donald D. Crawford is jointly made a party with the City of Owosso or threatened to be made a party that may arise out of this Agreement or the performance of this Agreement, or may be incurred with respect to any other activities performed by Donald D. Crawford which may be directed by the City of Owosso.

The City of Owosso will hold Donald D. Crawford harmless for all acts that arise out of the performance of this Agreement, or with respect to any other activities performed by Donald D. Crawford which may be directed by the City of Owosso, other than those acts that arise out of Donald D. Crawford's own willful misconduct or gross neglect.

**8. Business Expenses.** The City of Owosso shall reimburse Donald D. Crawford for all reasonable travel, meals and other expenses in accordance with City policy.

**9. Termination of Employment.** Donald D. Crawford shall serve as Interim City Manager at the pleasure of the City Council as described in Owosso City Charter Section 7.2(a). The employment relationship between the City and the Interim City Manager shall be at will and therefore may be terminated by either the Owosso City Council or the Interim City Manager at any time and for any reason with or without cause. However, if Donald D. Crawford wishes to terminate his services he shall give the City not less than four (4) weeks written notice. The terms of this employment relationship may only be changed in writing by an express agreement approved by the Owosso City Council and the Interim City Manager.

**10. Disability.** If Donald D. Crawford becomes disabled to the extent that he is unable to perform the duties of Interim City Manager for a period in excess of three (3) consecutive weeks, he shall no longer continue to serve as Interim City Manager.

**11. Miscellaneous.**

- a. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.
- b. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan.
- c. This Agreement may only be amended by a writing approved by the Owosso City Council and the Interim City Manager.
- d. If any provision of this Agreement is deemed invalid, all other terms shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion supported by Councilperson Eveleth.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilperson Eveleth, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Erfourth, Cook, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: Councilperson Forster.

ABSENT: Councilperson Martenis.

**DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – LEBOWSKY CENTER**

Director of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services Brent Morgan explained the agreement would formalize the responsibilities of the City, the Owosso Community Players, and Bazzani Building Company as it relates to the façade improvements at the Lebowsky Center.

Motion by Councilperson Cook to authorize the development agreement between the City, the Owosso Community Players, and Bazzani Building Company as it relates to the VSCI funded façade improvements at the Lebowsky Center as follows:

## Community Development Block Grant Program Sub-Recipients Agreement

This Agreement is being entered into as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. City of Owosso hereby referred to as the "City" located at (address) has been awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA Vibrant Small Cities Initiative Grant 200775V-4). Pursuant to the CDBG regulations and MSHDA policy, the City is authorized to disburse funds to eligible subrecipients Owosso Community Players (OCP) and Bazzani Building Company for CDBG eligible activities for facade improvements per the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) section 106 approved review.

The City has determined that (OCP & Bazzani Building Company) hereby referred to as the "Subrecipients" are eligible entities which have represented and agreed to use the allocated funds in the amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 for the activities described in attachment A. for improvements to the Lebowsky Center located at 124 East Main Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

The City has determined that (OCP & Bazzani Building Company) have the capacity and capability to plan, manage, and complete all project requirements within the duration of the agreement which is defined as, a construction contract executed by April 30, 2010 and the expenditure and reimbursement of funds must occur prior to September 30, 2010. The City recognizes that it retains certain monitoring obligations to ensure compliance with CDBG rules and regulations both state and federal.

### I. SCOPE OF WORK

The Scope of Work of the Grantee under this grant shall be to undertake and complete the following activities, subject to the limitations set forth in this grant agreement and applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations:

1. Prior to the commitment of any project funds, incurring any project costs, and state disbursement of grant funds, the City shall complete an Environmental Review Record (including the Environmental Assessment if applicable), and secure written approval and release of funds. The release of funds represents local completion of the environmental review procedures and requirements as set forth in 24 CFR Part 58 issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Project costs include costs to be paid by grant funds or other local, public or private funds. All parties recognize that changes different from the scope of work as identified in attachment A must be submitted to SHPO for prior approval. Any SHPO correspondence should be forwarded to the City prior to expenditure of grant funds.
2. If the project involves construction activities using grant funds, the Subrecipients shall provide the City a copy of all bidding documents or other evidence of compliance with federal labor standards for all construction activities financed in whole or in part with CDBG funds.
3. If the project involves acquisition of private real estate, permanent easements or right-of-ways, or the relocation of persons, families or farms, the Subrecipients shall provide the City with documentation of compliance with the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.
4. If grant funds are to be used to engage consultants or engineers, the Subrecipients shall comply with the procurement process as required by 24 CFR Part 85.36. For contracts greater than \$100,000.00, the Subrecipients must use competitive negotiation through a request for proposal (RFP) or request for qualifications (RFQ) process. The Subrecipients must provide a copy of the RFP/RFQ; a list of respondents to the RFP/RFQ; their evaluation and recommendation for the award of contract; and the proposed contract. For contract costs less than \$100,000.00, small purchase procedures may be used and the Subrecipients must provide documentation of the process utilized.
5. The Subrecipients shall expend up to \$350,000.00 of CDBG grant funds for project activities as described in attachment A.

This project description should include the following:

Through this agreement, the Subrecipients are being given the authority by the City to utilize the CDBG funds for the specific programs/activities identified below:

Matching funds of a maximum of \$350,000 but not more than fifty (50) percent of the total actual costs of the approved project activity financed with CDBG, local, and private funds.

Monthly draw requests will be processed in an amount not more than invoiced for work completed. Funds will be requested through an advance draw request through MSHDA.

Project deadline of September 30, 2010 must be met to insure funding availability. All reporting information must be provided within two weeks of requests.

To abide by all repayment/reuse/resale provisions as outlined within the grant agreement.

Subrecipients shall conduct on-site employee interviews for all contractors and subcontractors.

Subrecipients shall review all payroll records and prepare the subcontractor activity and wage detail worksheets.

6. The City may, in its sole discretion, after discussions with representatives of the Subrecipients, modify or reduce the total amount of Grant assistance offered under this Agreement or terminate this Agreement and demand full repayment of disbursed Grant proceeds if the Subrecipients violates, fails, or refuses to comply with any term, condition, or provision of this Agreement.
7. During each of the City's fiscal years in which a disbursement of CDBG funds is made under this agreement, the City shall file an Audit Report. The Subrecipients shall provide all requested documentation for auditing purposes to remain in compliance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133.
8. If the Subrecipients are executing construction contracts exceeding \$100,000.00, the Section 3 Clause shall apply.

## II. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Compliance by the Subrecipients: The Subrecipients shall comply with all applicable provisions of the "Statement of Assurances" as included in this agreement.
2. Maintenance of Records: The Subrecipients shall maintain records which will allow assessment of the extent of performance of the scope of work and which allow for the comparison of actual outlays with budgeted amounts. The Subrecipients' overall financial management system must ensure effective control over, and accountability for, all funds received. Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as time sheets and invoices.
3. Retention of Records: The Subrecipients shall retain all financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other pertinent records for a period of three years after the city's receipt of a formal closeout letter from WISH DA occurs.
4. Amendments: The Subrecipients must obtain prior written approval of the City for grant amendments as follows:
  - a) changes of substance in the Scope of Work including new activities or alteration of existing approved activities;
  - b) extensions to the term of work performance for completion of project activities; and/or
  - c) CDBG activity budget changes among approved CDBG funded budget items.

The amendment request must be submitted by an authorized official of the subrecipients prior to contractually approving and/or incurring any requested budget line item modification costs.

5. Suspension of Grant: When Subrecipients have failed to comply with the grant award stipulations, standards, or conditions, the City may, on reasonable notice to the subrecipients, suspend the grant and withhold further payments, or prohibit the subrecipients from incurring additional obligations of grant funds, pending corrective action by the Subrecipients or a decision to terminate in accordance with these Terms and Conditions. The City will allow all necessary and proper costs, which the Subrecipients could not reasonably avoid during the period of suspension, provided they meet the provisions of OMB Circular A-87.
6. Termination for Cause: The City may terminate this grant in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of completion, whenever it is determined that the Subrecipients have failed to comply with the conditions of the grant. The City will promptly notify the Subrecipients in writing of the determination and the reasons for the termination, together with the effective date. Payments made to the Subrecipients, or recoveries by the City, will be in accordance with the legal rights and liabilities of the parties.
7. Termination for Convenience: The City or the Subrecipients may terminate this grant in

whole, or in part, when both parties agree that the continuation of the project would not produce beneficial results commensurate with the further expenditure of funds. The two parties shall agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date and, in the case of partial terminations, the portion to be terminated. The Subrecipients shall not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date, and shall cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible. The City will allow full credit to the Subrecipients for the Subrecipient's share of the noncancelable obligations that were properly incurred by the Subrecipients prior to termination.

8. The Subrecipients and political subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities thereof, when engaged in letting contracts or procuring products or services which involve funds obtained from the City shall ensure that bid specifications, project agreements, other controlling documents, and any other local requirements do not:
  - (A) require bidders, offerers, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations on the same or related projects;
  - (B) discriminate against bidders, offerers, contractors, or subcontractors for refusing to become or remain signatories or otherwise adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations on the same or related construction projects; or
  - (C) require any bidder, offeror, contractor, or subcontractor to enter into, adhere to or enforce any agreement that requires its employees as a condition of employment to:
    - (1) become members of or become affiliated with a labor organization; or
    - (2) pay dues or fees to a labor organization, over an employee's objection, in excess of the employee's share or labor organization costs relating to collective bargaining, contract administration or grievance adjustment.
9. Use of Funds. CDBG funds may only be used for actual construction costs and not for management fees, costs of services, design or builder fees.

Motion supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Forster, Cook, Eveleth, Erfourth, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilperson Martenis.

#### **DISCUSSION – BUDGET OVERVIEW, PRIORITIES, AND PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM**

Mayor Frederick started the discussion off by giving an order to the subjects at hand; the budget overview would be first, followed by public safety reform, then priorities and public comment. He informed those in the audience that this would by no means be the only conversation on public safety reform, simply the first in a series of discussions.

City Manager indicated that because this is his final week at the City he would not be laying out any definite plans because he would not be here to carry them out.

There was some discussion regarding goals for the current year, including the development of a Master Plan. Councilperson Cook indicated his preference to wait until the permanent City Manager is hired before undertaking the task. City Manager Fivas noted that funds were budgeted in the current year for the project and he could not guarantee they would be available next year if the Council were to choose to wait. The Council decided to hear the budget presentation prior to making any decisions on whether to proceed with the development of a Master Plan.

City Manager Fivas went on to give a Power Point presentation on the status of the budget. He was concerned that revenues continue to decrease as property values decline, Proposal A lowers the tax rate and the State continues to cut shared revenue to local municipalities. He also noted rising costs in health care and pension costs. He projected the shortfall for the 2010-2011 budget at approximately \$1.4 million. Despite this he said he felt we would be turning the corner on the recession but didn't anticipate things returning to normal for as much as 10-15 years.

There was a recess from 9:11 a.m. until 9:25 a.m.

City Manager Fivas indicated he felt the long term solution to the City's budget issues was regional cooperation. Cooperation offers each municipality involved with the opportunity to receive quality service for a lower price. The process for coming to a consensus can be very difficult but well worth it. He pointed out Howell as an example of a municipality that has used regional cooperation to benefit the community.

He went on to say that the City could also pursue other avenues in an effort to mitigate budget issues, such as raising revenue, placing a millage on the ballot, using bond monies, raising fees, and getting concessions from labor organizations.

He then changed gears and approached public safety reform suggesting the City form an enterprise fund for EMS and operate like a business similar to that in place for water and sewer services. He said that while some public subsidy would probably be required at first there was potential to expand the service area and create a self-sustaining department. Further the plan would allow employees to maximize their time on duty by doing other jobs when they were not on runs.

He also pointed out that the City is the call of last resort in the area in regard to EMS, with the City responding to calls outside the City limits on 190 occasions last year and receiving help from outside services only 7 times in the same time period. It was estimated that nearly 10% of EMS calls for the City are calls of last resort and a cost savings may be found here.

There was discussion regarding how EMS could be separated from the Fire Department, sending out RFP's each year to ensure our costs are in line with our competitors, potential reforms in the police department, and making the most effective use of personnel. Council expressed an interest in seeing what concessions could be reached with the unions.

There was a recess from 10:48 a.m. until 11:05 a.m.

Councilperson Cook distributed copies of the goals and timeline he proposed at the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for use as a starting point.

There was discussion regarding including code enforcement in the list of goals, not listing individual specific goals but using them as a spring board for discussion, incorporating the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission into the priorities, overriding priorities that are on-going efforts, getting feedback from department heads on what is achievable, and re-examining fee structures for the City.

Motion by Councilperson Cook to adopt the Council priorities as presented with the removal of any attached dates and the addition of fee restructuring, Parks and Recreation recommendations and overriding values as follows:

#### **CORE VALUES**

The health, safety, and general well being of the community  
Excellence in customer service from City employees  
Fiscal responsibility  
Involvement and participation of the citizens  
Collaboration and cooperation among City departments  
Regionalism: be an active member of the Shiawassee community  
Active community participation that fosters municipal empowerment  
Well-equipped, clean, safe community parks and green space  
Community accessibility via a variety of means of transportation

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES**

One City, One Team  
Respect everyone  
Deliver excellent service  
Initiate, Create, Innovate  
Personal responsibility  
Do the right thing  
Act with integrity and honesty  
Have fun

#### **OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL 2010 GOALS**

1. Public Services. Fiscal soundness and growing revenue sources are required to provide quality services and maintain our infrastructure.
  - Budget: with public input, develop and adopt a budget for FY 2010-11
  - Public safety: Explore alternative delivery approaches for public safety services. Work toward a solution to realize monetary savings within the next budget.
  - Water Utilities: review status of sinking fund and take steps to ensure financial sustainability
  - Wastewater Utilities: review options for replacements to wastewater treatment plant
  - Budget: mid-year budget update; review options for revenue enhancement
  - Fees: review fee structure and make changes where appropriate

2. Economic Development. Provide leadership and effective policies to encourage the diversification and continued growth of our local economy. We will actively collaborate with our community partners to produce economic benefit to all citizens.
  - Industrial Development: adopt tax abatement policy
  - Planning Commission: work with SEDP to identify and market top six sites for economic development
  - Business Growth: review opportunities for establishment and on-going support of business incubator(s)
  - Planning Commission: Begin work on a new city-wide Master Plan; under the direction of new City Manager, engage all city departments and public in plan and bring to Council for adoption in 2011
  
3. Neighborhoods and Housing. Promote comprehensive neighborhood planning and active housing programs to ensure vibrant housing markets, a diversity of housing opportunities, and safe and healthy residential environments.
  - Neighborhood Streets: identify streets to be resurfaced; investigate additional funding and emphasis on street maintenance and road striping.
  - Rental Housing: complete inventory; in conjunction with code enforcement seek the reversion of illegally refitted properties and/or registration of properties as appropriate.
  - Public Safety: establish a neighborhood watch program
  - Homeownership: research, review, and adopt a plan with specific programs to promote homeownership, prevent foreclosures, provide for rehabilitation assistance and ensure the stability of owner-occupied housing.
  - Blight Ordinance: Create a consistent ordinance on the external upkeep and appearance of all property in Owosso. Identify funding sources to help residents without the means to improve their properties. Utilize volunteer force as well to help with cleanup of these and vacant properties
  
4. Parks, Recreation and Culture. Promote and maintain a high quality of life by providing diverse opportunities for recreation, entertainment, and physical health. Establish public/private partnerships to develop key facilities for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.
  - Parks and Recreation Commission: Identify 3 visible park improvements for completion in the year; include in budget.
  - Holman Pool: update on status of pool and discussion of options; adopt plan of action for development of water recreation facilities.
  - Parks and Recreation Commission: begin park plan update in conjunction with master plan revision. Review and revise 5-year park plan consistent with new Master Plan
  - Shiawassee Performing Arts Center: update on reconstruction of Lebowsky Center; review options for City support of next phase.
  - Regional Cooperation: investigate options for creation of a regional park authority.
  
5. Downtown. Create a sense of place in our community that attracts visitors, new residents, and additional investment to the center of Owosso.
  - Main Street Program: approve 2010-11 budget and work plans
  - Historic District Study Committee: monitor work and adopt Historic District upon recommendation of committee and Planning Commission; seek additional ways to support private redevelopment of historic downtown properties
  
6. Green Owosso. Promote a sustainable community, conserve natural resources and enhance the Shiawassee River and other natural assets.
  - Yard Waste: review options for curbside yard-waste pick up; identify benefits, costs and budget implications.
  - WECS ordinance: review ordinance to promote and appropriately site wind energy conversion systems.
  - MML Going Green: review opportunity to participate in Michigan Municipal League program to promote sustainable communities.
  - Household Waste: identify options and opportunities for community-wide recycling and waste disposal reforms
  - Develop a plan and funding strategy for enhancement of the Shiawassee River as an environmental and recreational asset for the community
  - River Beautification: review options and funding opportunities for enhancement of the Shiawassee River as an environmental and recreational asset for the community; coordinate with new City Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Plan, and Main Street efforts.
  
7. Communications and Marketing. Utilizing a variety of media and technology, strive to market our services, communicate our mission and values, and engage citizens in the decisions of city government.

- Public Access TV: identify options and institute plan to provide for City and community presence on cable television channels
- Web-Site: redesign City website to reflect city vision and goals

Motion supported by Councilperson Eveleth.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Erfourth, Cook, Forster, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilperson Eveleth, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilperson Martenis.

Motion by Councilperson Forster to begin the Master Plan process by referring the project to the Planning Commission for research and recommendation.

Motion supported by Councilperson Cook.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Erfourth, Eveleth, Forster, Cook, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilperson Martenis.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Paul Dinkins, 217 East King Street, indicated that he was a former fire fighter and he knew what a successful department looks like. He went on to say that fire fighters take the risk of being hurt or killed as well as suffering long term health effects from their jobs. Fire fighting is a hazardous job and immediate response is important in each fire. He questioned whether the City could ethically expose volunteers to these types of conditions. He also questioned whether a private provider would feel the same sense of duty to respond to an emergency as a public entity does.

Mayor Frederick noted the 4 minute time limit on citizen comments.

John Greenway, 115 Curwood Castle Drive, indicated he felt the City's ISO rating would go up if a volunteer fire department was implemented. He also indicated response times for the current department were far better than for the average volunteer department. He thought there were other ways to cut costs other than through the public safety department. He went on to suggest the City contract with the Sheriff's Department for police protection and save on administrative costs.

Eddie Urban, 601 Glenwood Avenue, noted a deadly fire that happened in Flint recently saying the fire house closest to the location had closed due to budget cuts and 4 people died.

Robert Speers, 425 Oakwood Avenue, thanked City Manager Fivas for bringing up valid points and he sympathized with the Council for the difficult decisions they were facing. He went on to note the effects of lowering the number of fire department staff and the availability of volunteers. He said the City is not geared toward a volunteer service.

Carolyn Mitchem, 1204 Orchard Street, suggested that changes to public safety would scare people and the City should put the item to a vote.

Captain James Treadway, Owosso Fire Department, noted the delivery of service is excellent currently and he would like to see the department maintained. He went on to say the union is willing to talk with the City about the budget.

Becky Hetfield, 319 Mac Arthur Street, Corunna, expressed her concern with response times should the City decide to contract out for EMS. She suggested reinstating transfers to increase revenues.

Collin rose, 1018 South Park Street, indicated he would like to see more detailed figures for the public safety department as well as the revenue received from tickets. He also indicated he felt the estimate of costs for EMS runs was not accurate as fire and EMS costs are difficult to separate under the current format.

Kathy Rau, 1404 North Hickory Street, wondered who would provide back up services for the City should they change to a business based model for EMS. She also expressed her concern with how fast volunteer fire fighters drive when responding to an emergency.

Councilperson Cook thanked everyone for their comments saying he has appreciated all of the information he has received. He went on to say that everyone highly values our public safety employees and he would like to see things remain the same because people are happy, but there are overwhelming budget concerns that dictate looking at all options. He said no one wanted to make grand changes but needed to find a way to maintain service at a lower cost or risk being forced to make cuts that result in cuts in the level of service.

Mayor Frederick thanked everyone for their comments saying they were helpful and the Council would continue to work on things.

Council directed staff to see what concessions the unions would agree to. They also indicated an interest in seeing information on partnering with neighboring jurisdictions and department head recommendations for savings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilperson Cook for adjournment at 12:06 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Eveleth and concurred in by unanimous vote.

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Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

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Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk