

**MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY
COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING
WORK MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020; 7:00 P.M.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT:**

MAYOR JOY PETRO, ZACH BLOXHAM, TOM DAY, DAWN FITZPATRICK, CLINT MORRIS, AND DAVE THOMAS

STAFF PRESENT:

ALEX JENSEN, GARY CRANE, ALLEN SWANSON, KEVIN WARD, JASON COOK, SCOTT MAUGHAN, NATHAN NANCE, KARL KUEHN, AND KIM READ

The meeting was held at Fire Station 51, 530 North 2200 West, Layton, Utah.

Mayor Petro opened the meeting and turned the time over to Staff.

Alex Jensen, City Manager, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss two very important issues related to public safety and expressed appreciation to the Council for supporting the City's Police and Fire Departments. He mentioned that although issues relating to public safety within the county had been discussed for several years, recent meetings had concluded there was finally a collective interest to further explore options in providing more efficient and a higher level of service. He emphasized the City had worked hard over numerous years to hire qualified and professional Staff. He stated the Council wouldn't be asked to make any decisions during this meeting; rather it was to provide information and respond to any questions. He pointed out the importance of Public Safety and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the residents of the City and believed the City had an obligation to improve the level of service within the county and pointed out the importance of this collaborative effort.

Chief Ward announced the City's Fire Department provided superior EMS services within the City and informed the Council it was considered one of the best within the State. He expressed his excitement with possible changes taking place and believed they were positive to the county.

He introduced Jason Cook, Battalion Chief, EMS Division, providing a brief description of his duties, paramedic history, and reviewed his qualifications, special skills and expertise with the Council.

Allen Swanson, Police Chief, introduced Karl Kuehn, Communications/Dispatch Manager, and reviewed his qualifications. He announced Mr. Kuehn would provide information regarding dispatch services.

PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Mr. Cook expressed appreciation for the opportunity to explain the City's EMS program. He briefly reviewed the history, its importance to the City, and why it had been identified as the best in the county. He provided a brief history of the City's ambulance program, which had been in existence for 25 years, and the paramedic services, which had existed for 20 years, and explained both were components of the City's EMS Program. He shared a visual presentation specific to the paramedic program. He explained the City's "tiered response" based on the needs of the 9-1-1 call and indicated the paramedic engines were housed at station #51 and #52. He added the City had three paramedics for each engine and explained the benefit of operating with that specific number of paramedics. He also identified the number of ambulance units within the City and briefly mentioned the impact the hospitals had on the demand for ambulance services. He also spoke to the overlapping incidents for both paramedic engines and ambulances and stated any "back-up" was provided by Davis County and vice-versa. He reported since 2005, EMS incidents had increased by 170%.

Mr. Cook explained the difference between an advanced EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and Paramedic specific to schooling and skill set, pointing out Layton City required advanced paramedic training, which resulted with knowledge of operating equipment of a higher level and reviewed the use of said equipment. He stated a Tactical Paramedic was a member part of a functioning SWAT Team.

He explained how the EMS Enterprise Fund operated within the City.

He stated the Davis County Sheriff's Office provided paramedic services to a number of municipalities within the county pointing out the only other paramedic units were operated by South Davis Metro and Layton City. He explained how the countywide provider was funded via the mill levy and explained the challenges associated with funding paramedic services in this way.

He reported the City had been invited to participate in discussions which began in the fall 2019 along with other leaders representing cities within the county. He indicated the fire based model of paramedic services was less expensive to operate than those operated as law enforcement paramedic services. He emphasized the importance that each resident deserved the best and fastest response of paramedic services, regardless of who responded.

Mr. Cook shared some examples of services provided by the City's paramedic and EMS services which were successful in saving lives due to the quality of Staff, training, and equipment. He reported the City would be re-visiting paramedic services within the county and pointed out the challenges and consequences associated with that type of service.

He asked if there were any questions and there were none.

DISPATCH SERVICES

Karl Kuehn, Dispatch Manager, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to address the Council and was equally excited to explain the services offered by the City. He stated although he had worked for several dispatch centers, Layton City was by far the best place he had ever worked.

He shared an illustration of what the inside of the dispatch center looked like and shared some examples of calls received by operators. He reviewed the location of the four 9-1-1 dispatch centers located within the county and coverage areas. He also reviewed the Layton 9-1-1 calls by the numbers: the number of calls, fees collected and revenue, the number of employees and how the center was staffed.

He explained the Vesta phone system, provided by Motorola, and reviewed the benefits and described what a call resembled. He also reviewed the shared system managed by Layton and Davis County pointing out how other counties had chosen to participate with the same system. He stated Layton City was the first City within the State to accept calls via text messaging.

He continued to explain the Motorola Radio System which was a shared statewide system which was fully interoperable with neighboring/regional agencies and also reviewed future plans.

He explained the CAD, Computer Aided Dispatch, and RMS, Records Management System, pointing out it was a stand-alone system to Layton City. He pointed out the other centers and the county used their own respective systems emphasizing this wasn't a shared system like the other two systems were. He also reviewed other major systems available within the City: Smart911, RapidSOS, Rave Alert, and Avigilon Cameras and explained how each functioned.

Mr. Kuehn reviewed the strengths and challenges associated with the City's dispatch center:

Strength – highly trained, experienced, dedicated staff

Strength – budget to support the tools and training to do the job effectively

Challenge – data sharing

Challenge – 9-1-1 transfer calls

He pointed out the City’s Dispatch Center was highly recognized and sought out within the State.

He informed the Council of the three causes for 9-1-1 transfers:

- Cell phone signals
- Freeway bisects cities and jurisdictions
- Moving incidents

He reviewed the issues associated with the transfer:

- Frustrated callers
- Slow response time

He explained the recent legislation adopted last year pointing out the 4-year implementation plan and deadlines associated with certain requirements. He identified some ideas which could be implemented to address moving in the right direction which included:

- Policy/procedure changes
- CAD to CAD
- Shared CAD platform
- Physical consolidation (North/South)

He also reviewed some of the next steps moving forward identifying the benefits of shared data. He reviewed the longer term steps: physical consolidation to two centers in the county and reviewed the benefits of that approach.

He asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick asked if any of the current facilities could accommodate the physical consolidation and Mr. Kuehn indicated no existing center could accommodate the consolidation. She also inquired what happened when 9-1-1 “goes down”. Mr. Kuehn explained those issues were the responsibility of the cell phone carrier and not that the 9-1-1 system and added some of the calls were still able to be transferred to the City’s dispatch center. He pointed out enforcement of that particular issue would be the FCC’s (Federal Communications Commission) responsibility.

She also requested clarification regarding the Smart 9-1-1 system and Mr. Kuehn explained how that was a benefit to the dispatch worker as well as the caller.

Mayor Petro asked if UTOPIA would be an advantage regarding 9-1-1. Mr. Kuehn emphasized the phone system was self-contained and explained how the use of UTOPIA would be a benefit pertaining to data. Mr. Jensen continued to identify the other entities which had availability to UTOPIA pointing out it wasn’t available nationwide.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick asked how funding would be recognized moving forward and a discussion followed. Mr. Jensen responded the transition seemed to be one of cooperation and explained how the proposed funding source moving forward put Layton City in a great position to provide a high level of service. He continued to explain options available to other cities and pointed out they would need to determine whether to pay for paramedic and EMS services or begin their own, as well as dispatch services. He indicated there would be significant increases in costs to some cities. He reminded the Council it was Staff’s desire to inform the Council of discussions which were currently taking place and indicated more information regarding costs and financing would be brought before the Council. A discussion followed regarding options and possibilities to Layton City in providing services compared to other entities within Davis County.

MAYORS REPORT:

No Mayor's report was shared.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Kimberly S Read, City Recorder