

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

OCTOBER 17, 2022; 3:40 P.M.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT:**

MAYOR JOY PETRO, ZACH BLOXHAM, CLINT MORRIS, BETTINA SMITH EDMONDSON, AND DAVE THOMAS

PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY

TYSON ROBERTS

STAFF PRESENT:

ALEX JENSEN, GARY CRANE, STEVE GARSIDE, ALLEN SWANSON, SCOTT MAUGHAN, KARL KUEHN, ED FRAZIER, AND KIM READ

The meeting was held in the Council Conference Room of the Layton City Center.

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

DISCUSSION – DISPATCH SERVICES

Alex Jensen, City Manager, introduced Karl Kuehn, Communications/Dispatch Manager, Scott Maughan, Battalion Chief, and Ed Frazier, Information Technology (IT) Manager, to the Council. He explained the importance of providing excellent dispatch services to the residents within the City and its interest in controlling its own destiny with providing these services. He shared a brief history associated with the City's dispatch services.

Councilmember Thomas arrived at 3:46 p.m.

Mr. Jensen revealed dispatch consolidation during initial discussions regarding the transition for paramedic services and indicated there were several items which were initially part of these discussions. It was conscientiously determined the 9-1-1 communications consolidation discussion was deferred for a later time. He reported initial discussions had taken place with representatives from the four dispatch centers currently operating within the County and believed there was consensus to move toward consolidation with Bountiful for the southern portion of the County and Layton for the northern portion. Since that time, the opinion of the County's representative had changed and informed the Council of a recent meeting with Davis County entities in regard to dispatch services and points of discussion. Mr. Jensen, and representatives from other entities, believed consolidation would raise the level of public safety services across the entire county. He indicated Layton City Staff had taken a leading role with the consolidation and was hopeful the virtual consolidation would be completed by the end of June 2023. He also informed the Council of challenges now being expressed by Davis County and a discussion followed.

Councilmember Bloxham reported he had the opportunity to visit the Weber-Morgan Dispatch Center with Commissioner Elliott during which its manager had pointed the issues which contributed to the failure associated with the Utah County consolidation. Mr. Jensen responded the respective City Managers of entities within the County initially had those same concerns.

Karl Kuehn, Dispatch Manager, explained how the issues experienced by Utah County would be addressed with the implementation of procedures by participating agencies and explained how this proposed consolidation would address those issues and the discussion continued. Ed Frazier, IT (Information Technology) Manager, also mentioned the phone system had also been updated since that time, which would also contribute to mitigate those similar complications. Mr. Kuehn continued to

explain other practices which had been implemented thus far in moving forward with virtual consolidation of dispatch services, anticipated to be completed by June 2023, and the discussion continued.

Mr. Jensen addressed the benefit of having Bountiful City designated as the off-site center. He also pointed out the potential costs, which would negatively affect the taxpayers of Davis County, if it created a new service district entity to provide dispatch services when excellent services could be provided by Layton and Bountiful City's dispatch departments. Mr. Kuehn also addressed concerns and the discussion continued. Councilmember Bloxham mentioned no figures, data, or matrix could be provided during his visit to the Weber – Morgan facility which justified Davis County's position that the proposed consolidation wouldn't be successful and dispatch services would be better provided by the Davis County. Mr. Kuehn pointed out the standards and identified benchmarks the City was required to meet and announced the City far exceeded minimum standards and expressed his belief the City would be successful with continuing to meet those and the discussion continued.

Scott Maughan, Battalion Chief, informed the Council, Layton City was the first entity to begin dispatching generic medical calls and described what that term meant. He mentioned Davis County, as well as Weber-Morgan, had since implemented that practice and Mr. Kuehn mentioned that practice saved approximately one to three minutes on these types of dispatch calls.

Councilmember Morris inquired whether members of the legislature had a different opinion of the quality of dispatch services provided by Layton City based on deficiencies by other dispatch departments which could potentially impact the success of the City's consolidation. Gary Crane, City Attorney, explained as long as the City met the benchmarks identified by the legislature, it would leave the City alone and Mr. Kuehn reviewed those benchmarks specifically addressing call transfers. The discussion continued regarding the importance of constructing a facility for this specific purpose and any possible risks to the City in moving forward without the County's commitment for the consolidation.

Councilmember Roberts arrived in person at 4:14 p.m.

The discussion also took place regarding the size of a proposed facility and infrastructure needs, including IT, for not only the current needs but for future needs due to growth. Mr. Frazier pointed out the disadvantage of operating a single dispatch center and explained the importance of having a backup or redundancy facility and shared an example to illustrate his point and the discussion continued.

Mr. Jensen summarized the discussion from a previous meeting with the City Managers from cities within the County and the discussion continued. He emphasized Layton City residents were receiving exceptional dispatch services currently provided by the City and concluded nothing would be gained by the creation of a new dispatch center by the County except the result of a tax increase to Layton residents.

Mayor Petro requested direction from the Council whether Staff should continue moving forward with the City's plans for its own new dispatch service center and Mr. Jensen continued to explain information from previous discussions with representatives from other municipalities. He informed the Council of an upcoming meeting facilitated by Gary Hill, Bountiful City Manager, with invitations being extended to the Sheriff and County Commissioners. Allen Swanson, Police Chief, suggested the City continue to move forward with its plans for the dispatch center. Mr. Kuehn added he would be happy to accommodate any interested elected official with a visit to tour and witness operations at the City's dispatch center. Battalion Chief Maughan, explained the importance of Layton City continuing to provide these services to its residents and the discussion continued.

Mr. Jensen emphasized the City's position in continuing to provide the quality of service and controlling its destiny relative to dispatch services. He also identified the negative effects with the creation of a Special Service District for dispatch services and the discussion continued. Mayor Petro suggested

implementation of a Board allowing representation from other entities participating with the City's dispatch services and Battalion Maughan believed something like that already existed and explained how it had been implemented.

Members of the Council expressed agreement to proceed with the City's plan specific to a new dispatch/communications center plan in order to meet the identified benchmarks.

Mr. Jensen indicated he would provide information from the upcoming scheduled meeting to the Council.

Mr. Kuehn explained the processes which had already been embraced and implemented by other entities to standardize procedures specific to dispatch calls and responses.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Petro informed the Council that Hill Air Force Base (HAFB) would be informing a segment of residents, by a letter, requesting permission to enter homes in order to conduct air testing. She explained the benefits with the testing and encouraged residents' participation. She wanted the Council to be aware of this should they be contacted by residents and announced it appeared the plume was decreasing in size which illustrated the remediation program was working.

She announced the City would be providing lunch to the workers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Temple on Friday, November 18, 2022, the Friday before Thanksgiving,

She also requested the Council be available to attend or participate with the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 11:11 a.m. She also requested the LeFrance engine and Chief Maughan identified other apparatus vehicles scheduled for the event.

Councilmember Smith Edmondson inquired about a possible glitch on utility bills requesting residents notify the City to make necessary adjustments. Steve Garside, Assistant City Manager, responded the City was aware of some water meter misreads and reported he had met with the City Treasurer, Vicki Wetzel, to determine if anything needed to be sent to residents.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Kimberly S Read, City Recorder