

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Work Session
June 5, 2018

Mayor Darrel Olson called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Darrel Olson and Council Members Quinn Nystrom, Steve Barrows, Todd Holman, and Mark Cross

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Bradley Chapulis, Community Development Director Josh Doty, Chief Jim Exsted, Finance Director Jeremy Vacinek, and Assistant City Administrator Kelly Steele

School Resource Officer for Forestview Middle School

City Administrator Chapulis explained the City has previously provided a school resource officer (SRO) at Forestview Middle School but the position has gone dormant three or four years ago. The City currently provides one hour of service each day per the existing contract. With the recent incidents in schools nationwide, along with the State's commitment to financially assist with school safety measures, ISD 181 has re-evaluated the need for a full-time SRO at Forestview Middle School.

In April, ISD 181's administration staff approached Chief Exsted and City Administrator Chapulis about re-establishing the full-time SRO position for the 2018-2019 school year. ISD 181 had requested the City consider having an SRO start in September. Staff explained this is not possible due to hiring processes. ISD 181 scaled their request back to a January 1, 2019 start date. Based on the scope of services ISD 181 is looking to have, city staff has put together some financial information for review tonight and if the City is to move forward with the SRO, what the officer would be expended to do when not under the contract with ISD 181.

After having several meetings with the district and reviewing their expectations of the SRO, city staff has been able to determine the police department does not have capacity to take on the SRO responsibilities without having to hire a new FTE. The total compensation for the position with benefits is around \$100,000, with 66% dedicated to the SRO responsibilities. If the Council considers the January 1 start date, there would be startup costs of approximately \$54,000. Understanding there is a startup cost, ISD 181 has offered to contribute \$20,000 towards this position. The City does not have money in the 2018 budget for this expenditure. Staff has identified four options for Council consideration. 1) decline services; 2) agree to the SRO under the school proposal; 3) agree to provide a March 1 start in order to push all expenditures into 2019; or 4) discuss with ISD 181 to provide services for 2019-2020 school year. The finance department has reviewed the proposed financial information.

Chief Exsted explained the additional FTE would provide the department with assistance during the busier summer months.

Council Member Barrows inquired if an SRO would be provided for each of the schools in Baxter. Chief Exsted explained only Forestview Middle School would have an SRO. Due to the proximity of

the new elementary school, the SRO could assist at both facilities. Council Member Holman inquired about increasing city staffing if ISD 181 is only asking for a short-term commitment. The current proposal with ISD 181 is for two years, but staff believes this may be a long-term change with ID 181. Mayor Olson explained the State recently provided funding for school safety and asked if waiting until 2019 to start the SRO would jeopardized ISD 181's state funding. Council Member Cross inquired if forfeiture funds could be used for startup costs. Chief Exsted explained it is a possibility. Council Member Holman inquired about using funding for the open assistant city engineer position to fund the SRO. Council Member Nystrom explained it is a great idea to have an officer in Baxter's schools and if the City can be creative with funding, she would support starting the SRO with the start of the 2018-2019 school year as safety of Baxter's students is important. Mayor Olson expressed his concurrence with Council Member Nystrom.

Staff will continue to work with the school district and bring a recommendation forward for council consideration.

ADJOURN:

MOTION by Council Member Cross, seconded by Council Member Barrows to adjourn the council work session at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Darrel Olson
Mayor

Kelly Steele
Assistant City Administrator