

**City Of Martinsburg  
Special Council Meeting  
Thursday, October 26, 2017  
The J. Oakley Seibert Council Chambers**

With a quorum present, the special session of the Martinsburg City Council was called to order at 5 PM by Mayor George Karos. The following Council Members were present: Gregg Wachtel, Harriet Johnson, Dennis Etherington, Kevin Knowles, Ken Collinson, Mark Baker and Jason Baker. Also present were: Mark Baldwin, City Manager; Kin Sayre, City Attorney; Gena Long, City Recorder; Fire Chief Paul Bragg; Deputy Chief of Police George Swartwood; and Finance Director Mark Spickler.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Ambulance Discussion—Fire Chief Paul Bragg**

Chief Bragg summarized the issues with the current ambulances, stating that there is a design flaw in the motor which was discovered after approximately 5,000 miles. He recommended purchasing a new ambulance that is currently in production, as there are times that the City does not have enough ambulances to serve the community and time is of the essence.

Councilman M. Baker asked if the box on the new ambulance will be similar to what we have now. Chief Bragg stated that, if the order is placed promptly, the new unit can be customized to be similar to the units currently in service. Captain Weller added that the decals and paint will be done at the factory and is included in the recommended cost.

Councilman Knowles asked if extended warranties or other processes are available to prevent the current issue from happening again. Captain Weller replied that extended warranties are not available on vehicles that have been modified, such as ambulances. Chief Bragg added that this is an issue with the particular motor that was used in the current ambulances, the motor itself is just not a good design. It is an issue across the country with this engine, including other medic units and school buses. Captain Weller added that the selection of those units was a two-year process, not a snap decision, there sometimes is just now way to tell, in advance, that there will be issues.

Councilman J. Baker suggested that, in the future, purchases should be staggered so that if there is a design flaw, it is noticed in one unit and not three.

City Manager Mark Baldwin asked the Finance Director about the balance in the Fire/EMS fund. Mr. Spickler stated that there is ample money in the fund to cover the cost of the ambulance, but doing so would reduce it by approximately half.

**4. Petitions from Citizens**

There were no petitions from citizens.

**5. Receive and File Reports—Minutes—Correspondence of the Following:**

Motion made by Councilman Etherington, seconded by Councilman Collinson, to receive and file item 6A-6E. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Reports of Chairpersons of Council Standing Committees**

None.

**7. Report of Mayor**

None.

**8. Report of City Attorney**

**a. Ambulance Discussion**

City Attorney Kin Sayre stated, in order to approve the purchase of the ambulance without following standard procurement procedures, Council would need to confirm that this is an emergency situation. He stated that he believes that it is.

Councilman Wachtel asked if legal action would be taken against the manufacturer. Mr. Sayre stated that is a possibility, more research is needed.

**9. Report of City Manager**

None.

**10. Unfinished Business**

**11. New Business**

**a. Discuss and Take Action as Necessary Pertaining to Ambulance(s), per City Attorney Discussion**

Motion made by Councilman Etherington, seconded by Councilman Knowles, that Council determine this to be an emergency situation and an emergency decision is necessary to purchase. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Approve/deny Purchase of One (1) Ambulance for the Martinsburg Fire Department-- \$332,061 (total)**

Motion made by Councilman Wachtel, seconded by Councilman Etherington, to purchase one 217 Ford F-550 ambulance for \$227,832 from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles; \$38, 229 fir a Stryker Power Load System and \$66,000 for the outfitting of the unit for a total price of \$332,061. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Bragg stated that the ambulance should be delivered in January 2018.

**13. Executive Session**

Motion made by Councilman Etherington, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, to go into Executive Session for legal, personnel and real estate at 5:16 PM.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:28 PM.

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George Karos, Mayor

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Gena Long, City Recorder