



ORIGINAL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Special Meeting and Caucus Meeting January 3, 2023

After pledge and invocation, Mayor Ernst called the Special Meeting to order.

The following Council Members answering roll call:

Amy Hurst	Present	Joyce Carson	Present
Sabrina Hazen	Present	TW Morrison	Present
Darryl Ammerman	Present	Luke Price	Present

Also Present: Attorney Brandon Voelker

Mayor Sebastian Ernst called the special meeting to order explaining the purpose was to discuss the issue of policing for the City of Falmouth. He explained that all the officers and the Chief except one, had resigned their positions effective January 1. It was his desire to be given authority to have a conversation with the Judge Executive and Sheriff's Department to negotiate interim coverage in the city. Long term he wanted to pursue options and if feasible to outsource the Falmouth Police Department to the County.

There was a full chamber of residents and citizens present and several asked to speak, including former Officer Mark Branham. He wanted to address the citizens and explain his decision to resign. He stated with his health issues and his age, he could not physically take the demands of a 12-hour shift. He further explained his love of the community, the school relationship he had built, and his love for the kids, even stating he had moved to Pendleton County. It is his desire to pursue a position of SRO (School Resource Officer). He could not and would not speak for the remaining officers as to their reasons; he was speaking only for himself. Several citizens expressed vocal concern of the lack of response times, lack of police presence, and unprofessionalism among other issues. Some residents spoke of also having to pay county property taxes and should get the same level of protection as county residents. The additional city taxes they pay, should be reduced if there is no police department. Final statements resounded with the need for better leadership and management if the department is replaced.

Attorney Brandon Voelker expressed to Council they needed to decide the level and standard of policing they wanted when moving forward.

MOTION: Luke Price made a motion to authorize the Mayor to contact and meet with Judge Fields to discuss a temporary agreement for interim police coverage by the Sheriff's Office; seconded by Tim Morrison. Amy Hurst-yes; Sabrina Hazen-yes; Darryl Ammerman-yes; Joyce Carson-yes; Tim Morrison-yes; Luke Price-yes. Motion Passed 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL

MOTION: Amy Hurst made a motion to adjourn the special meeting, seconded by Darryl Ammerman; All aye 6-0-0.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Caucus Meeting January 3, 2023

The Caucus Meeting then began with Mayor Ernst calling on Supervisors.

Departments:


Keene Dougherty: Submitted his report to Council on both the water plant and the sewer plant. He reported research had been completed on labs and he would be changing to a company in Versailles KY for the sewer lab testing saving approximately \$20,000 annually. Keene also brought up the Main Street pump not working and would get with engineer about warranty. They could read the remaining updates on his report.

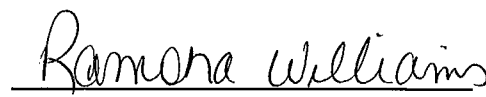
Gary Lea: Reported they had worked rather well through the cold snap bitter cold temperatures and snow without too many issues. The water fill station had busted lines and had been repaired to a point. They were having to get the vendor out to recalibrate and fix something else that he could not repair. It was not shutting off automatically like it should. There had been a few more leaks/burst pipes with a couple of businesses, but everything should be back operational.

There were several homeowners present to discuss the sewer backup in their basements today with the recent rain event. Gary reported they had spent most of the day on Sycamore using the jetter machine in order to help locate any potential blockage. Pictures were shown of the backups and Mayor Ernst said he would get with Gary and discuss any possible solutions the city might have in order to assist.

John Lucas: Submitted the fire department report to Council reviewing the end of year numbers stating they had 362 runs for 2022, and last year was 364. He said that during the cold weather the fire house was used as a warming shelter and they did have a resident from Gumlick Road that stayed for 3 days. Red Cross assisted them as well. Lucas stated they had applied for a Federal Grant that might offset the SCBA costs if awarded. It was also reported to Council the need to new furnace equipment at the fire house. It was submitted during budget talks at approximately \$20,000 but did not make the priority list. Lucas was told to get a couple of quotes. The fire truck that was surplusd will be advertised for sealed bid to end January 13th. A reserve amount was requested to be added.

Ramona Williams: nothing to report.
Meeting over.


Sebastian Ernst, Mayor


Attest: City Clerk