



OPEN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021
5:30PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approve the OCWS Agenda
4. Review the Regular Meeting Consent Agenda
5. Agenda Item(s)
 - A. Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(b) for Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Regarding the MDHR Litigation
 - B. South Metro Fire Department - EMS Levy Increase for 2022 Budget
Documents:
[MEMO TO CITIES ON INCREASING EMS TAXING DISTRICT LEVY.PDF](#)
 - C. Review of Recommendations for Renaissance Plan Ordinance Amendments
Documents:
[COUNCIL REPORT - RENAISSANCE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS.PDF](#)
6. Adjourn

If you need an accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at 651-552-4108 or email ADA@wspmn.gov at least 5 business days prior to the meeting
www.wspmn.gov EOE/AA



SOUTH METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT

1650 Humboldt Avenue • West St. Paul MN 55118

Phone: (651) 552-4176 • FAX: (651) 552-4195

www.southmetrofire.com

DATE: July 26, 2021

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark Juelfs, Fire Chief

RE: EMS Special Taxing District Levy Increase discussion

Summary:

Adding three new firefighter positions in 2022 was presented to the Fire Board during budget discussions. During the discussions the Board agreed with the need to add the additional staff but questioned how we pay for the increase without adversely affecting the Cities general levy. In addition to Both South St. Paul and West St. Paul's contribution to South Metro's budget, South Metro receives \$550,000 from an EMS special taxing district that was established in 2012. The taxing district is overseen by the same members of the Fire Board. The levy limit for this district had been \$550,000 until the recent Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Special Taxing Districts legislation was signed into law during the 2021 legislative session. The new law amended the former Emergency Medical Services Special Taxing District law to include the formation of Fire Protection districts. Another change was to remove the levy limit from the law thus enabling South Metro to raise its current levy of \$550,000 to cover the cost of the three new positions requested in the 2022 budget. If the three new positions are added to the 2022 budget the EMS taxing district levy would increase from the current \$550,000 to \$825,000.

At it's July meeting the Fire Board was in favor of increasing the EMS taxing district levy but wanted to have a discussion on the topic with each City Council before moving forward.

Supporting Information

- Calls for Service

In 2008, our first operational year, South Metro responded to 4622 calls. In 2020, South Metro responded to 6760 calls. In 2008, South Metro had 33 operational staff. In 2020, South Metro had 35 operational staff. Currently South Metro remains at 35 operational staff. In 12 years of operations, our call volume has risen by 46.3% while or operational staffing has increased by 6%. Through the first six months of 2021 our call volume is up and additional 5%.

- BLS Transports

In 2008, South Metro transported 565 patients. In 2020, South Metro transported 1651 patients an increase of 192%. In 2020 there was a slight reduction in transports due primarily to Covid-19, industry wide EMS calls were down. Through the first six months of 2021 we are on pace to exceed our budgeted amount of 1750 transports.

- Average Calls Per Day

In 2008, South Metro averaged 12.7 calls for service a day. In 2020, South Metro averaged 18.5 calls for service a day, an increase of 45.7%.

- **Burnout**

As a department we have made great strides in the last two years regarding our personnel's mental health. However, as our call volume continues to increase our staff is exposed to more and more trauma each day which leads to an increase in burnout. In addition, we are consistently short staffed due to retirements or injuries which creates significant overtime thus exposing our personnel to additional traumatic calls. Adding the three new firefighters, one per shift, will eliminate the need for much of the current overtime resulting from being short staffed.

Recommendation:

- Discuss the impact of increasing the EMS taxing district levy to support the hiring of three additional firefighters.

To: **Mayor and City Council**
Through: **Nate Burkett, City Manager**
From: **Melissa Sonnek, City Planner**
Date: **July 26, 2021**

Review of Recommendations for the Renaissance Plan Ordinance Amendments

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After some additional internal staff discussion and review of the differences between the Robert Street Renaissance Plan Update and the current zoning ordinance, the primary point of interest became more clear and apparent. While many things have already been accomplished or completed since the acceptance of the plan update back in June of 2017, there is one priority area that remains at least partially unsettled, reduction of underutilized parking lots along Robert Street.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Planning Commission met in regular session on July 20, 2021 to review the recommended changes. The Commission reached a consensus to move forward with Staff's three recommendations. However, they also requested the following items be addressed in the future,

- Demonstration of a comprehensive pedestrian flow throughout the site, and
- Addition of requiring a bike rack as a part of the site plan review.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

With the priorities and recommendations of the Robert Street Renaissance Plan Update in mind, City Staff has the following three recommendations:

1. Establishing consistent front yard building setbacks,
 - a. Change B4 setbacks from 20-90ft to 10-40ft to match all other B zoning districts
2. Limiting the amount of parking that can abut Robert Street,
 - a. No more than 50% of the Robert St lot frontage can be parking lot
3. Reduction of the required parking minimums.
 - a. Reduce parking minimums by 50% for properties that are within ¼ mile of Robert St

City staff is requesting City Council's review and approval of the above listed items to proceed with a formal ordinance amendment to formally incorporate these items into the City Code.