

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF FOSSTON, POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA

July 27, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the Council of the City of Fosston, Polk County Minnesota was held in council chambers on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 7:30am.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Dufault with the following members present: Bosselman, Anderson, Mulry and Offerdahl via phone. Absent: None. Others in attendance were: Cassie Heide, Sarah Manecke, Dustin Manecke, Curt Nelson and Mike Murray.

Vice Mayor Dufault stated the purpose of the meeting was to consider approving police department hire and wage adjustment.

Heide noted that an employment offer has been given to James Juve for the position of Sergeant with the City of Fosston Police Department contingent upon council approval. Heide said she is confident his expertise and veteran leadership will provide a positive impact on our residents and police department staff. Heide provided council the updated 2022-2023 Police Department step schedule. Effective September 1, 2022, Sergeant Juve will be at pay grade 12, step 8 and Chief of Police Manecke will be adjusted to pay grade 13, step 7.

Heide outlined the impact this hire, and wage adjustment would have on the tax levy & budget. Since the equipment purchased in 2022 will not be payable until 2023, Heide noted that she expects law enforcement to be approximately \$50,000 under budget this year. In 2023, she expects there to be an 11% increase to the tax levy that results in an 8% increase to property tax. Police state aid, training reimbursement and enterprise fund transfers will allow Heide to keep the levy increase as minimal as possible. Over the next 5 years the increase to the police department budget that affects the overall tax levy is minimal and with the offset of police state aid and training reimbursements is flat.

Bosselman expressed his concern regarding the tax levy increase and its affect on residents over 65, in particular. He noted that social security benefits have not increased and there is no tax relief for the elderly, so their taxes compound each year. Dufault noted that he believes our tax dollars support all the great services provided within the City of Fosston and are beneficial to individuals of all ages. Law enforcement is one of those necessary services. Dufault believes the maturity, knowledge, and experience Juve has will be a huge asset and will be very beneficial to the City of Fosston. Dufault also noted that the city is now receiving 24/7 coverage which is essentially triple the coverage provided by the county, for an increase of 30% in the first year of transition.

Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Bosselman to approve the police department hire, James Juve to the position of Sergeant, pay grade 12, step 8 and wage adjustment of Chief Manecke to pay grade 13, step 7. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the council, motion was made by Mulry, seconded by Anderson to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cassandra Heide, City Administrator