

MINUTES
Warrenton City Commission
WORK SESSION – March 14, 2017
5:15 p.m.
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers
225 S. Main
Warrenton, Or 97146

Mayor Kujala called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Mark Kujala, Tom Dyer, Henry Balensifer, Pam Ackley and Rick Newton

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Fire Chief Tim Demers, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Kyle Sharpsteen, Public Works Director Jim Dunn and Deputy City Recorder Dawne Shaw

City Manager Engbretson stated the purpose of the work session is to discuss the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and what needs to be done going forward. She noted the Fire Chief and Police Chief are involved in the process and attend monthly meetings.

Chief Workman stated the City's current EOP is an “all hazards/all emergency” plan, and noted it is a good plan, with good bones but it came out in 2010; the EOP should be revisited more often than every 7 years. He noted things have changed since 2010, such as the community, technology and communications; and the plan needs to be updated. Chief Workman noted the current plan has all emergency communications coming through the Police Department and talked about the Hamm radio in his office. The discussion continued on communications and the best location for the secondary Emergency Operation Center (EOC), with the new Sheriff's office noted as a possible option. Chief Workman gave a brief review of a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) template, noting it will take time to go through and complete. He noted the population center of the city is changing, so there is a need to update outreach efforts; and stated it is the City's responsibility to force people to be knowledgeable and prepared. Chief Workman noted CERT volunteers are continuing outreach in Hammond and has asked them to go out to the Alder Creek area and Kampers West. He stated CERT needs volunteers. Commissioner Balensifer noted it is important as elected officials to know their role so they are able to jump in and help; and how to continue governing. He stated the biggest concern is continuity of services to the citizens.

Chief Workman discussed the necessary emergency training; National Incident Management System, (NIMS) and Incident Command System, (ICS) and the stated the city is behind. He noted a lot of the training is now online, and the city needs to invest the time and money to get training


up to date. He noted if there is an "event" and training is not current, it could jeopardize federal funding. Also discussed was the need for exercises/practice so the city is prepared.

Chief Demers stated he looked at ways to alert the community in the event of an emergency and noted the "push" from the community for sirens. He stated the cost of sirens is prohibitive, at approximately \$40,000 per unit, but noted that when Umatilla closed, they gave some sirens to the county and there are 19 left. He noted they are an older analog system but can be useful and at no cost. Chief Demers discussed the logistics of siren placement and the topography of the city. He noted there is one siren on the City Hall building that can be updated. The discussion continued on the cost of installing the sirens and the possibility of partnering with Fort Stevens to reduce the costs. Also discussed was the effectiveness of the sirens and the ability to function long enough after power loss to alert everyone.

Mr. Scott Widdicombe stated his biggest fear is traffic bottle necks and the city's ability to manage traffic. Brief discussion continued on the road conditions after a major event and Chief Workman noted the city does need an evacuation plan for other events that include traffic control to avoid gridlock. Chief Workman stated the next steps are to get city staff trained; to revisit the EOP and to have a Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP). Commissioner Dyer suggested getting satellite phones since cell service may be out. Other steps include continued community outreach and letting citizens know to be prepared and to not wait for the city to rescue you.

There being no further business Mayor Kujala adjourned the work session 5:48 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mark Kujala, Mayor

Henry Belensifer *Vice Mayor Pro-Tem*

ATTEST:



Dawne Shaw, Deputy City Recorder