

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023**

The Ham Lake City Council met for a workshop meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Ham Lake City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Brian Kirkham and Councilmembers Jim Doyle, Gary Kirkeide, Al Parranto and Jesse Wilken

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Administrator, Denise Webster; and Deputy City Clerk, Dawnette Shimek

1.0 Call to Order

Mayor Kirkham called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Discussion of the 2024 Law Enforcement Contract with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office

Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise and Chief Deputy Bill Jacobson were present.

Mayor Kirkham stated that due to the increase in the 2024 Law Enforcement Contract, the City Council wanted to look at cost saving measures. Mayor Kirkham stated that Ham Lake currently has a full-time Investigator and could they possibly go back to a part-time Investigator.

Sheriff Wise stated that he knows how difficult it is for City Council's to decide how much police protection is needed for their cities. Sheriff Wise stated that generally the rule is 1 police officer per 1,000 in population. Currently, Ham Lake has 36 hours of coverage a day, which is 3 deputies a day on 12-hour shifts. Sheriff Wise stated that there are two things that are used: 1) answering calls for service, which is allocated time with all 911 calls being answered by dispatch; and 2) unallocated time, such as traffic stops. Sheriff Wise stated that Ham Lake's calls for service so far for 2023 is at 6,371, in 2018 the calls for service was 6,694, calls for service in 2013 was 5,841, calls for service in 2008 was 6,626 and in 2003 calls for service were 6,318. Sheriff Wise did explain that if a 911 call is answered for a second or third time for a follow-up on a previous call, that call is only counted one time. Sheriff Wise stated that the follow up calls are the role of the Investigator. Sheriff Wise stated that the Investigator is exclusively for Ham Lake. Sheriff Wise stated that at a bare minimum, residents want to know that they won't be forgotten and that they will be contacted by someone.

Sheriff Wise gave some Crime Rate data for Ham Lake and other cities in Minnesota. In 2022, Ham Lake's Crime Rate data was 1.4%, which means that in any given year 1.4% residents in Ham Lake can expect to be a victim of crime. Sheriff Wise stated that it comes down to community expectations of Law Enforcement and if the Investigator is removed, the perception of residents is that less crimes will be solved. Sheriff Wise stated that having deputies assigned to the City keeps the deputies familiar with the City and residents familiar with the deputies. Sheriff Wise stated he would be concerned with recidivism.

Sheriff Wise stated that currently, the City of Coon Rapids is in negotiations for an increase for the next 3 years of 7% for each year.

Councilmember Kirkeide stated that over the last several years, the budget has increased from 1.1 million to 1.6 million, which is concerning. Councilmember Doyle stated that he doesn't like trying to keep up with the Joneses. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the City won't be able to keep the tax capacity rate the same with these increases on the Law Enforcement Contract. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that he spoke with Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad and they discussed that the \$720,000 that Ham Lake will be receiving for Public Safety is supposed to be used for helping with the increase in the Law Enforcement Contract. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that it would just be a band-aid and the city would still need to increase the budget for future contracts. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that he would like to see a County wide levy for the Law Enforcement Contract. Councilmember Doyle questioned who would be the voice of that levy. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the Sheriff's Office knows how to run their department and they can move deputies and investigators around the County as needed. There was discussion that the City can control the Fire Department purchases, such as equipment, but the City really has no control over when a vehicle is bought for the Sheriff's Office. Mayor Kirkham stated if there were a County wide levy, there would be no more boundaries and deputies would go where they are needed, and not just be dedicated to Ham Lake. Sheriff Wise stated that he would be concerned about the tax payers. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that law enforcement would be more stable County wide rather than City wide. Councilmember Doyle stated that he is concerned about what the start-up cost would be to create a levy.

Sheriff's Wise stated that it is his opinion, the full-time Investigator is good for Ham Lake. Councilmember Wilken would like to see a comparison from the part-time Investigator to full-time Investigator regarding solved crimes. Chief Deputy Jacobson stated that he can gather that information. Councilmember Kirkeide asked if the "pencil can be sharpened" on the 2024 contract and does every bit of the increase need to be passed onto the City, or rather passed directly to the County. Sheriff Wise stated that all residents of Anoka County share and benefit from the same things, such as the jail.

Councilmember Doyle stated that he thinks highly of the Sheriff's Office and if they can trim the budget, they should. Sheriff Wise stated that he is a fiscal conservative himself, but they are investing in human beings.

Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the Council needs to review what the Sheriff's Office comes back with. Mayor Kirkham stated that he would like to look at seeing if the Sheriff's Office can levy for the Law Enforcement Contract, just like we are looking at doing with the Upper Rum River and Sunrise Watershed Management Organizations.

Motion by Kirkeide, seconded by Parranto, to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Dawnette Shimek, Deputy City Clerk