



MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL - SPECIAL SESSION

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

COUNCIL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581 & VIA WEBEX

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Mayor Coppernoll. Alderpersons present were Susan Fruit, Karin Tepley, Melony Walters, Kevin Melby, Steve Downs, and Ryan Cairns. Alderpersons Tom McCarthy and Mark Chambers were absent.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

1. **Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Richland School District to Establish a Community Resource Officer.**

Police Chief Billy Jones explained that he and Richland School District Superintendent Steve Board have been working on the idea for about 9 months. Chief Jones said that the Community Resource Officer (CRO) is meant to build relationships between law enforcement and the community starting with school-aged children in our schools. The CRO would provide a direct link between the district and the Richland Center Police Department which will span over many topics. The Richland School District has already approved supporting 70% of the position's wages, benefits, and equipment. The CRO would be used in the schools during the school year and then be brought back to the department during the off-school season to work on community-related projects. The day-to-day operation and administrative control of the CRO program will be the responsibility of the police department, and the CRO is employed and retained by the Richland Center Police Department and in no event, will be considered an employee of the Richland School District. The position would be effective August 14, 2023. The terms of the MOU would be from August 14, 2023 through December 31, 2025. Annual reviews of the program will take place in June.

Erin Unbehaun, President of the Richland School Board, confirmed that the board has voted in favor of the MOU to establish the Community Resource Officer at a 70/30 split. He said that the feedback on the idea has been positive, and he feels this will be a good partnership.

The annual total presented by the city is an initial estimate of \$154,034 (\$46,210 city/\$107,824 school district). There is funding in the 2023 Police Department outlay budget that will be reallocated for the CRO position in 2023.

Motion by Alderperson Melby to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Richland School District to establish a Community Resource Officer with a 70/30 split, with the school district supporting 70%. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried 6-0.

2. **Consider Approval of Richland Center Police Department to Advertise and Hire a New Patrol Officer Position.**

Chief Jones reported that it took 6 months to fill the last open patrol officer position. He noted that he believes the Community Resource Officer will be filled by a current member of

the RCPD. There has been interest by current officers in the CRO position. The action requested would hire a new patrol officer to replace the potential internal hire for the CRO. Motion made by Alderperson Tepley to approve the Richland Center Police Department to advertise and hire a new patrol officer position. Seconded by Downs. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Alderperson Tepley to adjourn. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried 6-0 at 6:54 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aaron Joyce, City Clerk/Treasurer.