

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
St. Francis City Hall Fire Station 3750 Bridge Street NW
August 25, 2025
5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council Work Session meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Mark Vogel.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mark Vogel, Councilmembers Sarah Udvig, Amy Faanes, and Joe Muehlbauer.

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Charlie Smith

3. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Joint Powers Agreement – Shared Fire Protection

Fire Chief Dave Schmidt gave an overview on the supplement added for the Joint Powers Agreement that states the how and the why of the process of creating long term sustainability of fire and EMS services with the City of Bethel. Schmidt stated that St. Francis and Bethel have been working under contract for about 2 years and it has worked well. The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) provides stronger legal authority than a typical mutual aid agreement. It provides efficiency by reducing the duplication of facilities equipment and administration.

Council member Udvig didn't have any questions and stated that the agreement looks good. She stated she is excited to see it move forward.

Council member Muehlbauer stated he was involved in the beginning of this process. He was curious about the indebtedness and taxing authority and if that comes later in the process. Chief Schmidt state that they cannot become a taxing district until St. Francis and Bethel become that entity. That will be down the road.

Mayor Vogel asked about the board members and who that will be. Chief Schmidt stated that two council members from each city and one member at large will make up the board for the JPA. Charlie Smith stated that if you move to a taxing district then all the members of the board should be council members but said that he would double check to make sure that is accurate.

Council member Faanes did not have any questions.

Council member Muehlbauer asked about the person at large as it states that it would be someone who is non-partial. How do we get that person to join the board?

Chief Schmidt said that they reached out to other entities that have the same make up of board members. He stated that they seek out retired Fire Chiefs to serve as that member.

Chief Schmidt stated that they would bring this forward to the September 15th meeting for final approval for the City of St. Francis and Bethel would have final approval on September 18th at their council meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vogel adjourned the City Council Work Session at 5:41 p.m.

Jennifer Wida, City Clerk