

1 Minutes of the Centerville City Council **work session** held Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 5:38  
2 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

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4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5  
6 Mayor Paul A. Cutler

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8 Council Members Ken S. Averett  
9 Tamilyn Fillmore  
10 John T. Higginson  
11 Stephanie Ivie  
12 Lawrence Wright

13  
14 **STAFF PRESENT**

15 Steve Thacker, City Manager  
16 Lisa Romney, City Attorney  
17 Neal Worsley, Centerville Police Chief  
18 Lt. Paul Child, Assistant Police Chief  
19 Katie Rust, Recording Secretary  
20 Several Police Department employees

21 **STAFF ABSENT**

22 Blaine Lutz, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager

23 **DISCUSSION OF POLICE CHIEF'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL OFFICER**

24  
25 Police Chief Neal Worsley explained that the addition of an eighteenth officer in the  
26 Police Department would allow a minimum of two officers to be on duty for most shifts, and  
27 would provide needed time-off for the officers. The Chief introduced Sergeant Alan Ackerson,  
28 the officer in charge of scheduling for the Police Department. Sergeant Ackerson explained the  
29 current Police Department shift schedule, as well as the proposed schedule including an  
30 additional officer. Councilman Wright asked how often the officers respond to calls in the  
31 Parrish Gateway retail area. Sergeant Ackerson responded that the volume of calls varies, but  
32 the Department frequently receives multiple calls per day from the retail business area.  
33 Sundays and Mondays tend to have the lightest call volume. The scheduling goal with the  
34 request for an additional officer is to have an additional officer available on weekends.  
35 Councilman Wright asked how the Department handles calls during the shifts with only one  
36 officer on duty. Sergeant Ackerson responded that the Department relies on help from other  
37 agencies. He stated that cooperation between the agencies is good, but it would be ideal to  
38 have two Centerville officers able to respond. With an eighteenth officer there would be at least  
39 two officers on duty for all shifts, except from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Sergeant Ackerson also  
40 mentioned turn-over in the Department and the training time required for new officers. The  
41 amount included in the budget for an additional officer includes salary, benefits, uniform, and a  
42 firearm for a full year. The Department has a reserve vehicle that can be assigned to the new  
43 officer.

44  
45 Chief Worsley stated there are not many people interested in becoming full-time police  
46 officers right now, and he does not know what kind of interest there would be for part-time  
47 positions. As part of the interview process for finding a full-time officer the Chief intends to ask  
48 candidates if they would be interested in a part-time position or working in a reserve capacity for  
49 the Department at some point in the future. Chief Worsley said many of the incentives for  
50 becoming an officer have been taken away, and he does not anticipate a lot of interest.  
51 Councilman Wright suggested offering upper level part-time pay and pay for training, and  
52 expressed a desire to make sure Centerville officers are paid well enough that they do not leave  
53 the Department or feel the need to work part-time for other agencies.  
54

1 Sergeant Zan Robison has been with the Centerville Department for thirteen years. He  
2 explained that he has noticed an increase in the time required to close cases. Attorneys and  
3 courts are requesting more research and follow-up to ensure successful conviction beyond  
4 reasonable doubt in criminal investigations. Retail theft cases often turn into something more as  
5 vehicles are searched and backgrounds are investigated. Chief Worsley pointed out that timing  
6 has become a big issue in cases considering the amount of time allowed for formal filing has  
7 been reduced from seventy-two hours to forty-eight hours. Sergeant Robison stated that no two  
8 days are the same in emergency response. Assistant Chief Child explained that in an effort to  
9 keep movements random and prevent predictability officers are not assigned specific areas by  
10 grid. Councilwoman Fillmore asked if the officers have administrative help with evidence in the  
11 office. Sergeant Robison responded that it is important to keep a chain of custody with  
12 evidence. Officers maintain custody of evidence until it is entered into an evidence locker.  
13

14 Sergeant Von Steenblik stated that the biggest change he has noticed in police work is a  
15 movement from a lot of property crimes to more fraud and identity theft crimes. He described  
16 several common methods of fraud and identity theft, and described information sharing and  
17 networking that has developed between agencies to aid in the complex investigations.  
18 Councilman Wright asked about the presence of gangs in the city. Sergeant Steenblik  
19 responded that he is not aware of gangs residing in the city, but the officers see some gang  
20 activity passing through.  
21

22 Chief Worsley explained that the dispatchers with the Centerville Police Department  
23 function as support staff for the Department. The County dispatch receives all 911 calls.  
24 Stephanie Lowe described the three City dispatch positions and their duties and responsibilities.  
25 The Chief stated that the benefit to keeping dispatch in-house is knowing that the work gets  
26 done. Assistant Chief Child added that providing City dispatch is a service to the citizens. City  
27 dispatchers type reports for the Department, freeing up officer time for other priorities.  
28

29 Councilman Wright expressed a desire to increase Police funding to have officers  
30 specifically assigned to the retail areas of the city. Mayor Cutler explained that the City has the  
31 ability to alter the formula by which the business license fee is determined. Lisa Romney, City  
32 Attorney, stated that a study would be required to show that retail businesses have a  
33 disproportionate impact on the Police Department. City Manager Thacker added that the  
34 formula used now was put in place over ten years ago. Management Assistant Jake Smith will  
35 be looking at the previous analysis, and reviewing State law to identify ways to update the  
36 business license fee formula. Councilman Averett pointed out the possibility that the revenue  
37 increase from altering the formula may be a relatively small amount and may not be worth it.  
38 Mayor Cutler recommended staff do some research to see what other cities in the area charge.  
39 Councilman Wright stated he feels the City should look at every option before considering a  
40 property tax increase, and the potential increased revenue from business license fees could  
41 help fund part-time help in the Police Department to support the retail area, apart from the  
42 additional officer requested. Mr. Thacker stated that staff will have preliminary discussions of  
43 the pros and cons of altering the business license fee formula. Councilwoman Fillmore stated  
44 she does not feel the Council should do anything that would discourage retail businesses from  
45 calling on the Police Department.  
46

47 Councilwoman Ivie said she has spent many hours in ride-alongs with members of the  
48 Police Department, and she is impressed with the high quality of officers in Centerville. She  
49 said she likes to think of Centerville as a small town, but she has learned that, on a smaller  
50 scale, Centerville has the same problems found in other cities. Councilwoman Ivie continued  
51 that long-term she believes the Department needs three more officers, and she feels at least  
52 one officer should be SWAT trained.  
53

1 Chief Worsley repeated that he will look for people interested in part-time work as he  
2 interviews for the full-time position. Responding to a comment from Councilman Wright  
3 regarding part-time officers dedicated to working retail theft, Councilwoman Ivie referred to  
4 Sergeant Robison's comment that retail theft cases often become more complex as  
5 investigation occurs. She pointed out that retail locations also have vehicle accidents, violence,  
6 drugs, and other issues. She believes that all officers would need to be fully trained. Chief  
7 Worsley said he believes it will be January before a full-time officer is hired and ready to begin  
8 the twelve week training period. Training multiple officers at the same time would be difficult.  
9 Chief Worsley agreed with Councilwoman Ivie that part-time officers would need to be fully  
10 trained. Councilman Higginson said he would not want the Centerville Department to train part-  
11 time officers and lose them to full-time positions with other agencies.  
12

13 A majority of the Council indicated support for hiring the requested additional police  
14 officer. Mr. Thacker stated authority to proceed with hiring the additional officer will be included  
15 on the Summary Action Calendar of the agenda for the November 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.  
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17 **ADJOURNMENT**

18 At 7:41 p.m. Mayor Cutler adjourned the work session.  
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25 Marsha L. Morrow, City Recorder  
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27  
28 11-18-2014  
29 \_\_\_\_\_  
30 Date Approved  
31

28  
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30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Katie Rust, Recording Secretary

