

Pursuant to due call and proper notice thereof, a special meeting of the Breckenridge City Council was held on March 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, Breckenridge, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Russell Wilson; Council Members Beth Meyer, Evie Fox, Reed Johnson, Jim Jawaski (5:06), Chris Vedder and Scott Wermerskirchen. City Attorney Jason Butts and City Administrator Lori Conway.

Members Absent: None.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Council Member Fox moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously.

The special meeting was called per the request of the Police Chief and Mayor from discussions at the last Personnel Committee meeting regarding a negative letter that was sent from the Wilkin County Commissioners. Some of the content in the letter is private data that should not have been included so it cannot be distributed. Chief Karlgaard is prepared to meet with the Sheriff, Commissioners, and Council to resolve the issues and work through everything. He is asking for support for himself and the people in blue to keep the Police department.

Council Member Meyer asked why the commissioner's do not want the Police Department at the LEC? The building was built for the purpose of both departments to be together and they need to be able to work together for the better of the community. As elected officials, it is our job to figure this out.

Council Member Vedder said the only thing she knows is that the LEC contract was broken and that the departments are not working together. She contacted the former Wilkin County Sheriff asking what the issues were when he was there. After visiting with him, he sent her a letter. She was reminded that the only thing that can be discussed is what is on the agenda – vote of support for the Police Department/Chief. Some comments of the letter appeared to contain not public data. She was unhappy with not being able to talk about some matters that would be considered not public data. She has lots of questions that she needs answers to that she can't ask.

Officer Barta stated that the deputies and officers have no problem working with each other. It seems like the issues are coming from higher up. Officer Olson stated to the Council that the only reason he has stayed with the City of Breckenridge is because of the trust he has in Chief Karlgaard. Officer Barta seconded that statement.

Council Member Wermerskirchen moved to declare full support of the Breckenridge Police Department and Chief of Police. Seconded by Council Member Fox with all voting in favor of the motion except for Council Member Vedder who abstained from voting.

Motion by Council Member Jawaski to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

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RUSSELL WILSON, Mayor

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LORI A. CONWAY, City Administrator