

**CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION  
February 6, 2024**

**ATTENDEES:** Council members Bergerson, Arsanto, Bender, Smith, Burbank and Green.

Also in attendance were Mayor Burkett, City Administrator Brunell, Finance Director Hines, Parks and Recreation Director Snodgrass, Police Records Clerk Burkett, Public Works Director Banks, Fire Chief Skogen, Asst. Fire Chief Olsen and Deputy City Clerk Clark.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Council Committee Discussion:**

Council discussed what committees would work for them and who would chair each committee.

- Community Services Chair: Green
- Admin/Finance Chair: Smith
- Transportation and Utilities Chair: Arsanto
- Parks and Recreation Chair: Anderson

**Fire Department Update:**

Chief Skogen spoke to Council updating them that the City of Buckley Fire Department has faced their busiest year on record, with 1530 calls for service. This represents a 9.5% increase compared to 2022. Emergency Medical Services make up the bulk of the call-volume at 75% of total runs. The current average is five calls per day for 2024, which may not sound like a lot, however most of these calls are EMS related. If each EMS call results in an ambulance transport, it is an average of two hours from time of dispatch until the crew is back in the station.

City of Buckley also services Wilkeson, Carbonado, Greenwater and Crystal Mt. resort. East Pierce will not be dispatched to Crystal Mt. any longer in a few months. Chief Skogen told Council that this is a necessity right now and is an emergency due to the rising call volume, high turnover, and losing three live-in volunteers. Mr. Skogen wanted to remind Council and public that the EMS levy lid lift will be on the November ballot. Buckley Fire Department has the full support of the Council to hopefully add two Full-time Firefighters.

**Taxes, Rates, and Fees Updates:**

City Administrator Brunell spoke to Council and discussed the additional changes to Taxes, Rates and Fees and that the 2024 fee schedule that her and City Clerk Percival updated is more streamlined and transparent. Staff will bring forward a resolution to Council.

**PROS Plan:**

Parks and Recreation Director Snodgrass presented Council the final draft of the 2024 PROS Plan and that in the summer of 2023 they began updating the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The City's previous plan, adopted in 2015 had expired and makes the City ineligible for some grant programs. Working with the direction of Council to bring forth a full and complete PROS Plan, Ms. Snodgrass stated that this will put the City in a competitive position for future grants.

Next Steps are:

- Adoption of the PROS Plan
- Submit PROS Plan to RCO to be eligible for grant programs – After Council adoption

- Apply for grant funds for Miller Park development – Spring 2024
- Use PROS plan as a guide for the Parks and Recreation element of the Comprehensive Plan

With nothing further, the Study Session was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Courtney & Brunell  
City Administrator

  
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Mayor

Prepared by: Jessica Clark, Deputy City Clerk