

A. CALL TO ORDER:

A Regular Meeting of the Troy City Council was held on Monday, March 10, 2025, at City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL:

- a) Mayor Ethan Baker
Theresa Brooks
Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga
Hirak Chanda
Mark Gunn
David Hamilton
Ellen Hodorek

- (b) Absent Council Members:

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vince Waryas	Offered assistance to Council during their decision-making regarding EMS
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D. BUSINESS STATED IN THE SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE:**D-1 Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

City Manager Nastasi welcomed everyone and explained the outline for the discussion of EMS services.

Deputy City Manager Bruner presented slides explaining the history of EMS services in Troy. Fire Chief Hullinger discussed service hours, history of contracts and future options.

Mayor Pro Tem Gunn asked Chief Hullinger to comment on the insurance payments made for EMS services. Chief Hullinger said that the revenue shown on the slide includes insurance payments.

Mayor Baker questioned the timeline for taking over EMS services. Chief Hullinger commented that it would take 18-24 months, so the City would need to contract with a private company during that interim time.

Council Member Chamberlain-Creanga asked about the confidence level in finding candidates to hire and retain for EMS positions. Chief Hullinger said he feels confident that the salary and benefits the City could offer would be attractive to candidates, especially those who do not want to do fire since it would be a separate division of the Fire Department. Council Member Chamberlain-Creanga asked why option 2 was not a consideration in the Fitch report. Chief Hullinger explained that option 2 requires similar start-up costs, the City would handle the

medical portion and then transfer to a private company for transport. He said there is expense to the City, but no revenue associated with that option.

Council Member Hamilton asked how the capital expenses are included in the costs in the presentation. Chief Hullinger responded that the costs include only the startup capital costs, not the ongoing replacement costs. He said that the revenue doesn't include potential increases in revenue from Medicaid should current bills being considered pass the Legislature.

Council Member Chanda asked if the \$5.2 million includes purchasing the ambulances. Chief Hullinger responded that the \$5.2 million is the initial operating expenses and on top of the capital expenses. Council Member Chanda asked if the population growth assumptions were considered. Chief Hullinger commented that they will need to evaluate in the future and may need to add an additional unit based upon growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Gunn asked for clarification on the reasons for the cost increase over what the City pays today. Chief Hullinger responded that the cost increases would mean a significant reduction in response times for each call.

Council Member Brooks asked if the cost numbers in the presentation take into account the potential for financial cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Chief Hullinger responded that the Fitch study took into account that most of the population in Troy utilize private insurance so there won't be a significant dependence on revenue from government health insurance.

Council Member Hodorek commented that she would like to confirm that the hiring of emergency medical service personnel has improved, as well as any associated administrative personnel. She said regardless of the option selected, it is important to ensure that the current contract is working well and to improve the response times. Chief Hullinger commented that he recently stopped meeting with the contractor monthly after repeatedly discussing the same recurring issues and concerns with no resolution from the contractor. He said under the current contract he has no say or authority in the delivery of services. He said that financials and delivery of service should be considered when determining how to proceed forward. Chief Hullinger provided the options should they consider option 2 or 3.

Mayor Baker questioned if the contract is more valuable to the contractor would their services improve regardless of the option. He commented that if they make a major potential change to the model, there is no going back to the previous model. He said providing better service to residents and public safety are priority, but he would like more information on the unknown costs on all of the options before providing direction. Chief Hullinger commented on the going rate for dedicated ALS for the company to cover their costs. He said he believes emergency medical services will go up regardless of the model going forward and the question is how much. Deputy City Manager Bruner commented that we can pay a private company more to provide the service or we can pay more to provide the service directly, but we will have more control if providing it directly. Fire Chief Hullinger said that bringing the service in house, they have full control from the 9-1-1 call to delivery of service and there is potential for revenue.

Council Member Chamberlain-Creanga said the Fitch report said the City of Detroit is the only city that has a model that doesn't rely on a fulltime Fire Department. Fire Chief Hullinger said that the City of Detroit has a blended model where they cross-train firefighters to provide medical assistance based upon their call volume. He said if we moved forward with option 3, Troy would be the only community that has separate EMS from fire. Council Member

Chamberlain-Creanga commented with concerns should there be an economic downturn. Fire Chief Hullinger said that we pay a contracted company regardless in the event of an economic downturn, but if the service is provided by the City, there are options such as furlough or layoffs.

Council Member Gunn asked if other communities, such as Clawson, utilize the services if they proceed forward with option 3. Fire Chief Hullinger said that is an option and would not require additional staff based upon call volume. He said bringing services in-house would also address the mutual aid issues we have experienced with other communities.

Council Member Hamilton commented that cuts to Medicare or Medicaid will impact every model. He asked when does City Council need to make a final decision. Fire Chief Hullinger commented that a decision should be made by June so they can reevaluate the model and still have time, if needed, to bid it out. Council Member Hamilton commented that he is leaning toward option 3, but more cost information, especially capital expenditures, is needed to make a decision.

Council Member Hodorek questioned if bidding out for services will provide the information they are looking for. She said she would like more information from the private sector. She said Council is considering making a significant, long-lasting policy change and she is not ready to make a decision.

Council Member Chanda asked about the timeline should they consider option 3. Fire Chief Hullinger provided the timeline and some considerations if bidding out the services. He said it is risky going with private since there are so few companies who provide the services.

Council Member Brooks asked if there is a threshold and how will it impact our budget. Mayor Baker asked what is being budgeted for emergency medical services without knowing the contract renewal amount. Chief Financial Officer Maleszyk responded how they are presenting placeholder information in the budget also knowing the costs are going up. He explained that each year they come in under budget, but these cost adjustments will impact the budget and may require asking the residents for an EMS millage in the future. Mr. Maleszyk said he prefers to see the City renegotiate the contract or rebid the services.

Council Member Chamberlain-Creanga commented that any of the options could require a millage in the future. Mr. Maleszyk said it is possible. He commented that Troy cut its way out of the Great Recession and at some point, the City will need to enhance revenues.

Council Member Chanda asked if a millage is needed in the next year or two. Mr. Maleszyk commented that adding \$3 million to the budget is not sustainable long term. He said that because the City has been very conservative and has a significant General Fund balance, they could pull money from the General Fund if they needed to seek an EMS millage. Mr. Maleszyk said his responsibility is to look at the financials, not the delivery of service. Mr. Maleszyk commented that he is cautious because actual revenue never reaches the revenue estimated.

Council Member Hodorek commented that she would like to consider rebidding the services including stricter provisions for delivery of service. Fire Chief Hullinger commented that service issues with the current company often had a quick correction or fix and he believes this topic will be discussed again in a couple of years.

Council Member Gunn questioned the option of bringing in one of the ambulance companies being bought out. Chief Hullinger commented that was suggested several years ago. He said if the City pursues providing services in-house, many of the employees will come from private companies.

Council Member Brooks said she shared her concerns and explained that has a healthcare professional, response times are so important and can mean the matter between life or death. She said she is taking in the information and understands both sides.

Council Member Hamilton commented that services need to be improved now and he would like to see more information on how to achieve that during the 2-year gap.

Council Member Chanda commented on the Fitch report's analysis of response times. Fire Chief Hullinger commented that option 3 eliminates the risk on response times by providing full control to the City.

Mayor Baker commented that more information is needed before City Council considered making very big policy decision. He stressed the importance of the City to work with the private company on the challenges discussed while also recognizing there is very little control.

City Manager Nastasi commented that more meetings will be scheduled after he works with City staff to get more cost information requested by Council, and he will talk with Universal to look at cost information for renegotiating or possibly going out for bid. He said he is pleased with the questions and feedback from City Council.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

F. ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:07 PM.



Mayor Ethan Baker



M. Aileen Dickson, MMC, MiPMC3
City Clerk