

# EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

August 25, 2025

The East Bethel City Council met on August 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. for the regular City Council Work meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:            Ardie Anderson            Suzanne Erkel            Brian Mundle  
   Tim Miller                    Jim Smith

ALSO PRESENT:                Matt Look, City Administrator  
   Jeff Cielocha, Fire Chief

## 1.0 – Gimpl IUP Enforcement

Look noted that they have repealed the animal containment and horse IUPs. Look updated that Ayshford identified seven horses on the property that he could count and stated that there is a violation of City Ordinance.

Look noted that the previous Council would follow up on the violation with three letters, and if there is no response, they would send it to the City Attorney to go to court. Look stated that now the violation would be brought to a work meeting to be discussed, which is what they are doing today.

Anderson asked what their options are. Look stated that an IUP is clearly laid out, and the resident has 30 days.

Mundle asked what communication had been sent out to Mrs. Gimpl. Look stated that no communication has been sent besides the IUP being pulled at the City Council meeting.

Mundle stated that he thinks they should send a letter first to see her plan.

Miller asked what Gimpl's options are. Look noted that he is not in the horse business, but assumes they would have to give them away or find people to rescue them.

Look noted that Mrs. Gimpl can apply for a new IUP, but it would still have to align with the necessary acreage needed per horse.

Look stated that they did not initially send a letter because Mrs. Gimpl knows what was required of her when the IUP was pulled, and asked what information they would like in the letter and what they are asking of her.

Anderson noted that even if she reapplies for an IUP, she has already gone over her 60 days. Anderson stated that he thinks they need to emphasize some timeline with this.

Mundle recommended that once the letter is issued, Mrs. Gimpl only has two weeks to communicate a plan of action to City Hall. Anderson noted that she needs to submit a timeline.

## 2.0 – HME Fire Apparatus Discussion

Fire Chief Cielocha stated they have three front-line fire engines, E11-2003, E21-2013, and E31-2013.

Cielocha stated that E11 was purchased for \$280,000 in 2003, was refurbished in 2019, and the engine was rebuilt in 2021.

Cielocha noted that Pierce in Appleton, WI, offers a pre-built truck that can be ready in 2-4 weeks.

Cielocha stated that E21 has no scheduled replacement year, and E31 is unique to Fire Station 3 and is custom-built for that smaller station.

Cielocha stated they have two tankers to help with rural water delivery.

Cielocha stated that they have two rescues slated for replacement in 2026, but recommends that those not be replaced now because they have more pressing needs.

Cielocha stated that the two wildland pickups are working as they should and are on the CIP for replacement sometime after 5 years.

Cielocha stated that NFPA 1901 and 1911 gave them the best practice for the fire department and apparatus replacements. The NFPA states that no frontline apparatus should be older than 15 years, and E11 is 22 years old.

Cielocha noted that lead times for a custom apparatus are 2.5-4 years out, and lead times for "stock" apparatus are 2 weeks to 13 months.

Cielocha stated that HME is based in Wyoming, MI, and has a 13-month lead time with a price of \$750,000-\$975,000 and allows for customization.

Cielocha stated that Pierce Saber is based in Appleton, WI, and has a 2-4 week lead time with a price of \$930,000, but has very limited options.

Cielocha stated that the opportunity with HME is to almost get two engines for the price of 1 and can save \$1.2-\$1.4 million instead of replacing the engines later on.

Cielocha noted they could potentially sell E11 to offset some of the cost.

Mundle asked how soon he is looking to move on this item and get an answer. Cielocha stated that this is a big opportunity to save significant money, and HME is looking for direction from the City by December.

Cielocha asked for more directions from the Council on whether they should start to pursue this or hold off.

Mundle asked how the options from HME compare to their current trucks. Cielocha stated that HME's truck was put next to E11, and they were almost identical. Cielocha noted that they would have to add a pump compartment heater, but everything else was set up as they liked.

Anderson asked where E21 would be stored if they kept it as a reserve. Cielocha stated that he has not thought about that yet.

Erkel stated that one of the neighboring communities might have extra space in one of their maintenance buildings. Cielocha noted that they could pursue all the options and determine what would work best.

Erkel asked if there were any other places that Cielocha could get quotes from besides the two presented tonight. Cielocha noted they are meeting with Fire Safety USA next week and still need to contact Rosenbauer.

Cielocha stated that they want to avoid commercial cabs, if possible, because they are not as user-friendly as their current designs.

Miller asked how much more work they would need to put into the machine once they get it. Cielocha stated that it should come with everything set up and ready to go except for the loose equipment.

Miller stated that he thinks they should get more information on this and thinks the potential of saving \$1.2-\$1.4 million for the City is huge.

Smith stated that he agrees, and the opportunity to get two engines for the price of 1 is a great idea to help save taxpayers' dollars.

Mundle stated that the extra information could be emailed, or they could meet as needed to present an overview of the fire trucks or any additional quotes.

Erkel asked what kind of emissions the new trucks from HME would be. Cielocha stated that it will still be diesel, but in 2027, it was planned that additional emissions requirements would be placed on diesel engines and that the cost would amount to \$75,000-\$125,000 for the emissions updates.

Smith asked if they got these trucks before 2027, would they be grandfathered in. Cielocha stated that it is his understanding because E11 and E21 could not be retrofitted to meet those updates.

Erkel asked what new technology is in these vehicles. Cielocha stated that there are a lot of changes, and he would have to compile a list of all the technology updates that have been made since 2003.

Mundle asked if Cielocha has a spec sheet on the engine. Cielocha stated that he has one of the engine that HME brought in and they looked at. Mundle asked if that could be emailed to the Council.

### **3.0 – Senior Center Liquor License**

Look stated that he talked to Erkel about this, and they had established a cost to change the ordinances to accommodate liquor in parks at around \$3,000. Look asked who should bear the cost to change this, the Seniors or the City.

Mundle asked if they could split the cost if it would benefit the seniors.

Erkel noted that the seniors are accustomed to the City doing whatever is asked of them for no cost, so they were surprised when the City was considering having the seniors cover the cost.

Look stated that there is flexibility in paying it off. Look noted that they are recommending the seniors use a food licensed vendor, and two are currently located in the City.

Erkel asked how the State law pertains to a food and liquor-licensed vendor, not just a liquor-licensed vendor. Look stated they can pull up the State law and get that information and ask Frost to provide that information.

### **4.0 – City Initiated Rezone: 23983 Johnson Street NE, Industrial to Residential**

Look stated that he received a phone call from Senator Bahr, who stated that he got a call from a resident who purchased 23983 Johnson Street NE and wanted to put in a pole barn. According to the acreage requirements, it is possible, but based on zoning, it is not possible because it is zoned light-industrial.

Look stated that the homeowner could come and file to have his property rezoned for a cost, or the City could initiate a rezoning to residential, and there would be no cost to the resident, and the City would absorb the cost.

Erkel stated that she thinks it is common sense that it should be residential. Smith noted that he agrees.

Look noted that he will direct Gerard and Lindahl to start that process, and the City will absorb the cost.

### **5.0 – Adjourn**

Work Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*