

# EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

December 22, 2025

The East Bethel City Council met on December 22, 2025, at 6:00 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

## 1.0 – Pension Increase Discussion

Firefighter Troy Lachinski presented an update on the overview of the Fire Pension, pension plan goals, experienced firefighter retention, Relief Association revenue sources in 2025, Relief Association outflows, State and City contributions, history of results, EBFRA 2025 Special Fund Performance scenarios, annual rate of return, investment options, and community outreach.

Lachinski stated that they are requesting a \$400 increase per year of service, making the new benefit \$8,400 per year of service.

Erkel clarified that this increase is coming from the investment, not taxpayers. Lachinski noted that it is correct.

Erkel also asked if \$187,000 is what comes in annually, or if it accumulate to that total. Lachinski noted that it is the rate or return throughout the entire year.

Mundle asked if they have a consensus to vote on this at tonight’s meeting. Look noted that it is already on the consent agenda to be voted on.

## 2.0 – Prime Advertising and Design

Look noted that they had a councilmember raise a concern regarding the quality and timeliness of the newsletter, and they have looked into what it takes to produce a newsletter. Look stated that it has been pushed to the back burner with staff turnover and shared responsibilities.

Look presented what Prime Advertising and Design does, and noted that the City would send them the content, and then they would take care of designing, printing, and sending it to the post office.

Look noted that their services' cost would add about a \$10,000 increase over the entire year. Look noted that the last newsletter that was designed and handled in-house cost \$3,444.

Erkel stated that she thinks it is a great idea and would add a level of professionalism.

Mundle asked if the new newsletters would be in color. Look noted that he would have to check how much of the newsletter would be color vs. black and white, but thinks they could have a say in what is/is not in color.

Miller stated that they have gotten away from producing an in-depth newsletter, and it is important that they keep residents informed with what is going on in the City.

Smith noted that the last newsletter they sent out was not like the ones they have done in the past, so he is in favor of going with this company. Smith stated that it is important that they get one out at least 4 times a year.

Mundle asked Look if he could find out some answers about potential advertisers and color printing, and bring the answers back to the next meeting.

### **3.0 – Garbage Haulers Discussion**

Look noted that a resident asked if they could look into what Ham Lake does for garbage haulers in their city.

Look presented the contract for the Ham Lake Haulers and noted that they could have a similar scenario. Look noted that their contract seems to cover everything of concern.

Look stated that they would need to send out an RFP.

Look noted that some residents may want to have the flexibility to choose their own provider.

Anderson noted that the pricing is based on the size of the container, and he thinks that residents would be satisfied if they end up having to pay less than they do now.

Mundle asked what two companies came together for Ham Lake. Look noted that it was Ace and Waste Management.

Mundle stated that he could envision having two suppliers, but he would like to keep one of them local to support small businesses.

Miller stated that these trucks can do some damage to roads, to help with long-term maintenance savings.

Smith stated that he thinks they should send out an RFP every two years to ensure they are getting the most cost savings.

Erkel stated that she is not for this, because she does not think it is the government's place to get into garbage.

Mundle noted that he can understand how it can cause trouble down the road because residents have expressed dislike towards certain garbage companies in the past. Mundle asked how much it would cost to go out for an RFP.

Look noted that they can go out for a Request for Quote (RFQ) rather than an RFP to save some money.

Anderson asked if this would require an ordinance if they decided to go with something like what Ham Lake has. Look noted that he thinks it would just be a contract, not an ordinance, but he can check into that.

### **4.0 – Adjourn**

Work Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lilian Rokosz

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*