

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE BRAHAM CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017
4:00 P.M.

The Public Hearing was called to order with the following present: Mayor Patricia Carlson; Council Members Lowell Jaques, Shawn Sullivan, Jeremy Kunshier, and Traci Leaf; and City Administrator Sally Hoy.

In the audience were Loren Davis, Art and Edie Kaunonen, Delwayne Hahn from the Isanti County News, Marshall Lind, Chief Knowles, and Officer Eric Baumgart.

Officer Baumgart presented information on Body-Worn Cameras to the council and public. He explained that the Braham Police Department was entertaining the idea of implementing Body-Worn Cameras, and has developed what he felt was an extremely comprehensive policy for their use. He noted the purpose of the body cameras is to capture evidence, and as a safeguard for officers and the City for the liability that could present itself in an incident. He said with the cameras, the police department would be able to provide a lot more factual evidence.

He said the Braham policy came from a model policy from the League of Minnesota Cities, and covers mandates and the LMC's recommendations. He noted that he had draft numbers for costs. He said he contacted five companies for quotes on the equipment, and had only gotten two responses back at this time.

Council Member Kunshier asked if the department had tried a camera out.

Baumgart noted that they had from one company, and it has positives and negatives. He noted it was not able to record for an entire shift. He noted one of the concerns he had with a camera is how easily they turn on, so an officer is not distracted from an immediate threat by having to turn it on. He also noted the difference in the software packages from companies, and whether the software is purchased or leased.

Baumgart noted the Sheriff had purchased a Watchguard system, and was allowing the agencies within Isanti County to use his computer and software at their office for redaction purposes. He said that software does downloading and more than redaction, and that server system had cost \$20,000. He said the City would not have to absorb any of that purchase.

Council Member Leaf asked if camera costs wouldn't come down in time. Baumgart said based on the information he'd gotten, if the cameras were lower cost the software was more expensive. He noted the software package was included in the price. He said for Braham, they would be buying cameras and docking station, and would need to upgrade the department's computer system for size and storage. Baumgart said the BCA was not fond of cloud storage, and that Braham would want to do its own storage on site.

Baumgart explained the process of recording for a shift, the ability to pivot the camera, and how the cameras and squad camera should be compatible, upgrading the squad cameras in the future.

Administrator Hoy noted this public hearing was for the concept of implementing body cameras only. She said the second public meeting would be for the budget meeting for the purchase of the cameras, and the final public meeting would be for adoption of the actual Body-Worn Camera Policy.

The council noted their support for the concept of implementing Body-Worn Cameras.

Council Member Jaques asked if the technology was advancing faster than the City could upgrade the cameras, and Baumgart replied that could be so with cheaper cameras and expensive software. He noted one had a comprehensive package that is good for five years. He noted from the information he had gathered so far, one company was standing out.

Council Member Jaques asked if the required retention periods were minimum or maximum. Baumgart noted the State's retention schedules required the data be stored for a minimum of 90 days, and after that progresses off the retention schedule that can stretch to 6 years, depending on the incident.

Council Member Sullivan asked if the systems would flag and automatically purge data at a certain date.

Baumgart said they all have the ability to purge automatically, but he wasn't a big fan of that, wanting more local control on the retention. He said the size of Braham's department would not generate too much data to retain.

Council Member Sullivan asked if this will come back to the council at the August meeting, and Administrator Hoy noted that Officer Baumgart can gather more information on costs for the council, but the next public meeting on the cameras would actually be the 2018 budget meeting.

With no other questions, Jaques moved, and Sullivan seconded to adjourn the public hearing. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally A. Hoy
City Administrator