

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
FIRE TOUR WORK SESSION MINUTES

Monday, November 1, 2021

6:00 p.m. Robbinsdale Public Safety Building – Fire Department

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kline at 6:08 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb (arrived 6:21), Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Guy Dorholt, Fire Chief; Mike Powell, Assistant Fire Chief; Marcia Glick, City Manager; Guy P. Dorholt, Fire Chief; Mike Powell, Assistant Fire Chief; Greg Bodin, Fire Marshal; Brent Nelson, Fire Captain; Darren Olson, Fire Lieutenant/Training Officer; Mark Krause, Fire Lieutenant; Josh Opheim, Firefighter; Ciaran Murtagh, Firefighter

Introduction of the Fire Department members

4. Chief Dorholt welcomed the city council as the meeting began in the Training Room and shared that the Fire Department is chartered for 30 members. All members, from the Fire Chief down, are paid on call and all have outside jobs, activities, and family obligations. When there's a call, we stop what we are doing and report to the station. Because of the unique structure of the Robbinsdale Fire Department, each individual may perform additional duties in addition to training and fire call response. Some examples of these additional duties are detailed below:
 - Firefighter Murtagh is also the Treasurer for the Robbinsdale Relief Association; he joined the department in 2015 and is a certified public accountant.
 - Firefighter Opheim handles documentation of fire calls, payroll and mandated reporting to the State of Minnesota; he joined the department in 2011 and is the Street Supervisor for the City of Robbinsdale Public Works Department.
 - Lieutenant Krause handles researching, purchasing and maintenance of all gas monitoring equipment, hose and nozzles, medical supplies, extrication equipment, and is department Secretary. He joined the department in 2017 and works for the street department for the City of Robbinsdale.
 - Lieutenant Olson is responsible for all aspects of departmental training. He assures that all members meet their certification and training requirements by scheduling both inside and outside training courses on an annual basis. He joined the department in 2016 and is a conductor for BNSF.
 - Captain Nelson handles researching, purchasing and maintenance of all uniforms, personal protective equipment (PPE), radios and acts as the liaison with Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Informational Services. He joined the department in 2008 and is an outside sales engineer in the fastener industry.
 - Fire Marshal Bodin is responsible for all Fire Department related inspections and sign-offs on existing and new construction projects within the city. This requires onsite meetings that happen Monday-Friday during normal construction business hours. Bodin noted that the Building Official is a great partner in making sure that he is aware of upcoming projects and inspections. Bodin also performs annual license inspections of service

stations and second hand goods, as well as coordinates Fire Department Public Education for hundreds of elementary school children within the city. He joined the department in 1988, is the longest serving member and works as the Pastoral Care Manager for North Memorial Medical Center.

- Assistant Fire Chief Powell is second in command of the department is responsible for membership hiring and managing the onboarding process for new firefighters. He joined the department in 2002 and works in the water department for the City of Robbinsdale.
- Chief Dorholt is Chief of the department and is responsible for administration, overall operations and future vision for the department as required. He joined the department in 1997 and works as a senior manufacturing representative in the Telecommunications Industry.

5. Chief Dorholt noted that the Chief, Assistant Chief and Training Officer manage the operations side of the department which can be done outside of regular business day; the Fire Marshal service requires availability in the 9-5 time frame. (Webb arrived, 6:21pm)
6. Chief Dorholt noted that fire calls have increased in recent years moving from ~250 calls in 1998, 315 in 2016, 386 in 2020 and are on pace to match or exceed the 2020 numbers in 2021. Dorholt shared that members love serving on the fire department and "it's their 2nd best job ever."
7. The group then toured the fire department day room, where it was noted that all of the furnishings were purchased from department member contributions. Before walking past the small bedrooms, it was shared that the department used to have a 4-member crew sleep at the station between December 1 and March 1. Now there is just a winter standby when there are reports of heavy snow or extreme cold.
8. Continuing in the fire bay where the large fire apparatus are kept, it was shared that there is an average 6 minute response to fire calls 24/7. An average 12-15 members respond to each call. Large equipment is designed to last 30 years. Engines 8 and 9 are nearly identical and the equipment storage on the ladder truck is also in the same locations. The light rescue vehicle is for medical, water rescue and gas calls. A minimum of 3 people are required on a fire engine or ladder prior to going out and at least 2 on the light rescue. The Chief and Assistant are 1st to the scene and relay advice to the crew on the way so that they are prepared to take action upon arrival.
9. Mayor Blonigan requested information on budget allocations for fire service from a variety of cities. Chief Dorholt provided preliminary information and noted that there are three types of departments: Paid on call (Robbinsdale form), Mixed where there is a full time Chief/Inspections, duty crews, along with paid on call, and Career with full time staff.
10. Robbinsdale has a Fire Response focus; only 10% medical calls. Police take lead on medical in Robbinsdale. If Robbinsdale Fire were to respond to more medicals, there would need to be a change in department staffing.

11. Concern was raised regarding LRT and fire response. Glick noted that at this point the department hasn't had the opportunity to review the plans or data and would be speculating. She will be sharing the information with the department when it is received.
12. Fire staff showed council members the equipment carried on the truck and how it is methodically stored. They also each carry about 70 pounds of equipment between air packs and other tools.



ADJOURNMENT

13. Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. after which the City Council observed fire fighters training on hose management and techniques in the parking lot area.


Marcia Glick, Recorder


Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem