

MINUTES OF THE CASHMERE CITY STUDY SESSION
MONDAY APRIL 22, 2024, AT CASHMERE CITY HALL – In-Person and Digital

OPENING

Mayor Jim Fletcher opened the Study Session meeting at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. The Clerk-Treasurer, Kay Jones, took minutes.

The public can attend the council meeting in person, by phone, or by digital conference.

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Mayor:	Jim Fletcher	
Council:	John Perry Chris Carlson Shela Pistorosi Jayne Stephenson Jeff Johnson	
Staff:	Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer Steve Croci, Director of Operations	

LIBRARY MOVING TO RIVERSIDE CENTER

Regarding the Cashmere Library moving to Riverside Center the council was presented with a Building Use and Maintenance Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding for Library Improvement Project for approval at the April 8th council meeting. After a lengthy discussion and several questions, the council requested a study session with a NCW Libraries representative to discuss the move and both documents.

NCW Libraries Executive Director Barbara Walters and the Cashmere Librarian Lisa Lawless joined the City Council at the table to discuss the move.

The NCW Libraries has a 5-county service area. All residents of the unincorporated (outside the limits of a city) are eligible for NCW Library services. Mail order is the founding services for the library.

Residents of incorporated cities that choose to annex into or contract with NCW Libraries District are eligible for services. In the 1950's the citizens of Cashmere voted to annex into the Library District. The city chose to have a physical library building.

Residence of any incorporated city or town that has chosen not to annex or contract with the Library District do not receive library services. These residents have the option to purchase a fee card, however the card does not give access to mail order services.

Walters stated that the Use and Maintenance Agreement cannot be substantially changed. NCW Libraries has the same agreement with the same \$4.00 rate for 30 other branches. The partnership with the city and the \$4.00 rate is to reimburse the city for the patrons that use the library that live outside the city limits, which at Cashmere is 20% of the users. The agreement is not a lease agreement.

The MOU for the Library Improvement Project for the \$487,000 grant dollars that will be used to improve and upgrade the Cashmere facility. It doesn't matter which facility they are in, the grant money can only be spent on interior improvements and requires a 10-year contract for the investment in the facility. The city owns the building and is responsible for structural improvements and building maintenance. The partnership with the city and the \$4.00 rate is to reimburse the city for the patrons that use the library that live outside the incorporated city limits, which at Cashmere is 20% of the users.

The tax revenue for Cashmere was \$141,742 and they spent \$405,226 of their general fund for the Cashmere Library. Just in wages and benefits for one FTE it costs the library \$91,000, which is far greater than what the city will spend to maintain the building. Walters explained that 97% of NCW Libraries' revenue comes from property taxes. They do not receive additional government funds. The libraries' levy rate is 0.2646.

The services the library provides is a benefit to the community and with the larger facility the library will be able to provide added benefits and additional programs to the patrons.

The City Council voiced their support for the library and also their concern for the additional expenses that the larger facility will require.

Mayor Fletcher stated that moving the library into the Riverside Center is the best use for the facility that will allow the community daily access at no cost. The current library facility can be sold, which would eliminate maintaining two buildings, which would be a cost savings to the General Government Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 5:51 PM.


James Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:


Kay Jones, Clerk-Treasurer