



Goodhue City Council Special Meeting Minutes
City Hall ~ August 6, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel

Staff: Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman

Absent: Joe Benda

Guests: Brenda Hinch, Attorney Vose of Kennedy Graven, Chartered LLC – via virtual/speaker phone

Call Special Meeting to Order

Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Goodhue Community Fire Truck Association

Council reviewed and revised the draft of the Joint Powers Agreement for the Goodhue Community Fire Truck Association. There was some confusion over terminology in the agreement: distinction between “members” (communities), “directors” (appointed representatives from communities) and “officers” (executive committee members like chair, vice chair secretary/treasurer). The agreement inconsistently refers to both communities and individuals as “members,” causing confusion. Council agreed to update terminology in the draft for clarity of members, directors and officers.

Council member Brunkhorst described the position of the Fire Truck Association, to not only help out the Fire Chief, but also be a pass through or “liaison” between the Fire Relief Association and the member communities.

Board composition and voting power in the current draft gives each community two directors resulting in a board of 20. Concerns were raised about practicality of having such a large board and the risk of communities not being represented if both directors/alternates are absent. Debate about proportional voting with larger vs. smaller communities to reflect their contributions took place.

Council member Nagel left the meeting at 6:44 p.m. and returned at 6:45 p.m.

Attorney Vose asked what Goodhue’s role is in working on the committee on getting this agreement where it is today. Brunkhorst responded that the Association tried three different times to get the City of Goodhue to become a percentage member and re-write the agreement. Then the association bought a fire truck, and the percentage base communities had to pay for the \$600,000 truck and Goodhue didn’t have to pay anything, so now the other nine members want to change the agreement. A Joint Powers Agreement board was then created with volunteers Michael Brunkhorst, Rich Majerus, Steve McNamara, Roger Ballstadt, and George Raasch to work on the agreement.

Attorney Vose expressed his concerns about the City being well represented and being careful about how this formula is going to work for the City of Goodhue.

Council had concerns about liability if the Fire Chief was hired by the Firefighters. Attorney Vose suggested that the Firefighters can nominate, but the board must approve the appointment of the chief to ensure accountability and reduce liability. Council agreed to add language of Fire chief selection with adding words such as “subject to board approval”.

It seems the biggest issue is section 6, that determines member contributions. Including Attorney Vose’s comments makes it more readable and appropriate. Brunkhorst suggested we give the committee both views.

Brunkhorst believes this is good to get language cleaned up but thinks it will be a hard sell to the committee.

Mayor Valenzuela commented that the “sell” is hard because they’ve been doing it the same for so long, and change is hard.

Council decided to make the changes during the meeting and Council member Nagel left the meeting to retrieve a computer at 7:19 and returned at 7:20.

Council worked on grammatical errors found and made the changes discussed.

Council member Schmit left the meeting at 7:24 and returned at 7:26.

Council member Nagel left the meeting at 7:57 and returned at 7:58.

Concerns of the urgency for this to be done were expressed because of budget and scheduling constraints. And if the revised agreement is not approved, there may be a risk of reverting to the old agreement and potential financial impact to the City of Goodhue.

Council made edits to the agreement draft based on tonight’s discussion. Michael will distribute revised drafts to the Joint Powers Board and prepare for meeting on Monday.

Administrator Redepenning printed and retrieved the copies of the revised document as requested for council to review.

A motion was made by Brunkhorst, to approve the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Goodhue Community Fire Truck Association amended 8/6/2025, seconded by Schmit, motion carried, 4-0-0.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:03 p.m. by Council Member Brunkhorst, seconded by Schmit 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk