



Councilmember Miller expressed frustration with misinformation circulating, in the community and on social media, and the lack of (staff) transparency and communication regarding the overall ice compressor project. Councilmember Miller expressed continued support of installation of the new compressors, however stated the project should have been handled differently and that all parties involved should have held discussions early on (Martin County Fair Board, Fairmont Hockey and the City of Fairmont).

Administrator Skaret stated the project dates back to 2022 spanning three City Administrators, two public works directors, gaps in between, and other staff transitions during that time; in hindsight, the proper order of steps would have called for a written agreement with the Fair Board regarding compressor installation, well before install.

Councilmember Lubenow voiced support of an agreement regarding the new compressors and for installation to occur in a timely fashion as the hockey season is fast approaching.

Much discussion was held referencing fellow councilmembers comments, Facebook posts, and emails.

Councilmember Maynard stated "...we purchased the replacement compressors.... and we own them. The only thing that makes sense to do is to install them." Councilmember Maynard was perplexed on why the special meeting was occurring in the first place.

Councilmember Kawecki agreed that installation needs to occur, and that she has no intent of breaking the contract with Kraus-Anderson or stopping the hockey season. Councilmember Kawecki questioned the compressor warranty and operating contracts.

Finance Director Hoye agreed that an agreement or an amendment should have been/should be in place prior to moving forward with the installation of the new refrigeration equipment, but there was and continues to be no immediate need to revamp the existing 2004 operating agreement (with the Martin County Fair Board). Director Hoye said in conversations with the prior city administrator (Jeff O'Neill) agreement to wait until after the November referendum to determine what the terms and conditions may need to state.

Administrator Skaret stated after an August 6, 2024 meeting with representatives from Fairmont Hockey, the Martin County Fair Board and the City of Fairmont, a one-to-two-page agreement had been drafted


regarding the compressor installation and ownership. Administrator Skaret confirmed the new compressors would have a one-year warranty, but no specific warranty documentation had been received as of present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Maynard, seconded by Councilmember Miller, to adjourn the special meeting, as there was no further business to come before the Council. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. The Fairmont City Council adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

  
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Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Betsy Steuber, City Clerk