

# FIRE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 14, 1999

The Fire Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 14th, 1999 at 7:32 a.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh, Chairman  
Jim Davidson  
Keno Hawker

## STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster  
Dennis Compton  
Linda Crocker  
Gil Damiani  
Bob DeLeon  
Carl Geis  
Mike Hutchinson  
Barbara Jones  
Dorinda Larsen

## STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Bryan Raines  
Paul Wilson  
Others

## OTHERS PRESENT

Robbie Sherwood  
Others

1. Discuss and consider a future fire station site to serve the area of 80th Street and East McDowell Road.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton, Assistant Fire Chief Paul Wilson and Management Assistant II Dorinda Larsen addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item.

Chief Wilson informed the Committee that the City of Mesa purchased 2.3 acres of property at 7966 East McDowell Road in 1997 as the site for a future fire station. Chief Wilson advised that the firefighter paramedics assigned to this station will provide services to an area from North Power Road to the Eastern City limits and from the Northern City limits to East Brown Road. Chief Wilson informed the Committee that the site is located one-half mile out of the City of Mesa limits but stated that the station will serve areas of the City surrounding that location. Chief Wilson added that it is anticipated that the entire area may be annexed into the City in the future.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the design of the station is currently underway and construction should be completed by July 2000, the fact that staffing for the station will be funded by the Quality of Life Sales Tax Initiative, which was approved by the voters in 1998, the fact that the location of the station will allow the Department to respond quickly to calls for service, the fact that the City is currently in the process of trading property with the owner of property to the west to ensure that the site is as functional as possible, and staff's request that the Committee concur with staff's recommendations.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hawker, Chief Wilson advised that a standard station design will be utilized and design costs will therefore be minimal.

Chief Wilson commented that although citizens in the area have expressed some concern regarding the proposed station, staff will continue to work with the neighbors to address their concerns and answer their questions.

Chairman Kavanaugh commended staff on their efforts to respond to Mesa's citizens as quickly and efficiently as possible.

It was moved by Committeemember Davidson, seconded by Chairman Kavanaugh that the Committee recommend to the Council that staff's recommendation, relative to the construction of a new fire station in the area of 80th Street and East McDowell Road, be approved.

Carried unanimously.

2. Hear a report on SMOKECLOAK Security Systems.

Chief Compton and Assistant Fire Chief Bob DeLeon, addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item. Chief Compton informed the Committee that the SMOKECLOAK System is a smoke security system that is integrated into existing burglar alarm systems and constitutes a valley-wide issue at this time.

Chief DeLeon advised that the system is triggered by the detection of an intruder and said that upon activation, the area is obscured by a white smoke-like vapor cloud that repels the burglars. Chief DeLeon said that currently one business in Mesa has had the system installed but stressed that the manufacturer is in the process of marketing his product and expanding his client base.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that no response or contingency plan for incidents relating to a SMOKECLOAK activation, real or accidental, currently exists, the importance of determining whether the activation is a police call or a fire call when responding to the incident, the fact that the material used to produce the cloud is propylene glycol, which has not been tested under the influence of a fire or in vapor form, the fact that the system has not met third party testing either as a complete system or under high heat conditions, and a variety of added concerns expressed by staff relative to the safety hazards associated with this product.

Chief DeLeon stated that the Department is working with the manufacturer in an effort to gain additional information and address their concerns. Chief DeLeon added that once staff's concerns have been answered to the best of the manufacturer's ability, the system will be further analyzed and recommendations will be provided to the Committee. Chief DeLeon requested that pending further study and analysis, the Committee recommend to the Council that the installation of all SMOKECLOAK Security Systems in Mesa be prohibited.

Chairman Kavanaugh stated that it is the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the Council that staff's recommendation relative to prohibiting all future installations of SMOKECLOAK Security Systems in Mesa be prohibited pending additional staff analysis and recommendations.

City Manager Charles Luster advised that this item will be placed on the agenda of a Council Study Session.

Committeemember Davidson requested that Police Department staff be present at the meeting to provide their input relative to this issue.

Councilmember Hawker also recommended that a representative of SMOKECLOAK Security Systems be invited to attend the meeting to provide input and respond to questions.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 a.m.

Fire Committee  
April 14, 1999  
Page 3

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fire Committee Meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1999

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK