

FIRE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 20, 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 October 20, 1999 at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh, Chairman
Jim Davidson
Keno Hawker

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Jan Amdahl
Dennis Compton
Linda Crocker
Bob De Leon
John Friedline
John Geier
Mike Hutchinson
Dorinda Larsen
Sandy Mason
Tom Mattingly
Chuck Monroe
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer

STAFF PRESENT (Cont.)

Jenny Sheppard
Kim West
Paul Wilson
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Dian Gilmore
Spencer Kamps
Barrett Marson
David Palmer
Others

1. Discuss and consider fire projects proposed for the Spring 2000 bond election.

Chairman Kavanaugh stated that this meeting is part of a series of Spring 2000 Bond Election issues and said that Assistant to the City Manager Bryan Raines, Fire Chief Dennis Compton and Assistant Fire Chief Paul Wilson will provide input on this agenda item.

Mr. Raines addressed the Committee and said that discussions will include the terms "above the line" and "below the line" and explained that currently at the beginning of the July 1 Fiscal Year, the Fire Department had approximately \$5.4 million in available bond authorization remaining. Mr. Raines said that this means that from the 1996 election, \$5.4 million worth of projects can still be done without asking for any additional authorization. Mr. Raines said that these projects are referred to as "below the line" and added that projects referred to as "above the line" represents proposals to spend the remaining \$5.4 million. Mr. Raines noted that the \$5.4 million would be spent over the next two years and added that those funds are not the focus of this meeting. Mr. Raines informed the committee that the purpose of the bond meetings is to solicit input regarding additional authorization that will go beyond this current year and into Fiscal Year 2001, thru 2004.

Mr. Raines noted that the City previously held bond elections every five years but said that with the implementation of the District System, staff has determined that the bond election cycle should change to once every four years. Mr. Raines added that Special Elections may be called, but staff's goal is every four years.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton introduced Management Assistant Dorinda Larsen and Battalion Chief Dan Stubbs to the Committee. Chief Compton stated that the contents of the presentation they will hear today is consistent with the Department's twenty-year infrastructure plan, strategic plan, and the five-year operational plan that we've been working from. Chief Compton advised that the presentation involves land acquisitions, fire department facilities and renovations to existing facilities, relocation of existing facilities and the development of new fire stations and facilities. Chief Compton added that staff will also provide information on the connection of a microwave system and the purchase of major fire apparatus, including replacement apparatus and new apparatus. Chief Compton noted that at a future meeting, staff will present the Committee information on a co-funded project with the Police Department, a Training Facility, and a proposal for an 800 megahertz project with City Communications.

Assistant Chief Wilson addressed the Committee and advised that Mesa currently has 15 fire stations and a 16th station is being proposed for the Northeast area of the City. Chief Wilson referred to a map which outlined identified locations for future fire stations and said that the criteria used to select the sites was based upon a mile and a half distance from the point of station to the targeted areas the Department intends to serve. Chief Wilson reported that the Fire Department's response time goal is 3 minutes or less at least 80% of the time.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that in 1994, the Department responded to 31,000 emergency calls, compared to 42,000 projected to occur during this year, the fact that many of those calls require more than one fire truck and multiple crews, the fact that staff is estimating that between FY 2000 and 2004, calls for service will increase an additional 35% (up to 61,000), proposed land acquisition for future stations in the eastern and southeastern portions of the City, the importance of obtaining land in the areas for future fire stations before development hampers the City's ability to obtain sites, the proposed relocation of two fire stations (#1 and 2), a proposed expansion/reconfiguration of the department's fleet parts and supply facility located at the East Mesa Service Center, a proposal to develop a Fire Operation Center to replace Fire Station #1 and improvements to existing fire stations.

Chief Wilson discussed the Department's request for a fire rehab supply vehicle and noted that the vehicle would support both the Police and Fire Department. Chief Wilson noted increases that have occurred in emergency management and said that the vehicle will stock the necessary supplies to enable staff to restock on the scene without losing valuable time. Chief Wilson also commented on a proposal to replace one of the Department's air light units and said that the unit at Falcon Field was purchased in 1991 and has 100,000 miles on it. Chief Wilson advised that the trucks are critical since they supply breathing air to the firefighters and lighting for both police and fire emergencies.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Five Year Capital Improvement Program includes some of the capital items that are in the half-cent sales tax, fire bonds, the importance of acquiring land and siting future fire stations, propose sites for future stations, the fact that all of the fire departments in the Valley are part of the Central Arizona Life Safety Response Council and this group meets to discuss important issues such as methods of better integrating regional responses throughout the Valley, the fact that whenever possible standard station design/blueprints are used to reduce costs associated with new fire stations, and the department's goal to analyze and provide recommendations to the Committee/Council in the future relative to emergency medical transport operations.

Chairman Kavanaugh thanked staff for their presentation.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Fire Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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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 20th day of October, 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK