

FIRE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 22, 2001

The Fire Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on February 22, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Pat Pomeroy, Chairman
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Neal Beets

1. Discuss and consider approving the design of Fire Station 201 to be located at the northwest corner of East First Street and North Mesa Drive and forwarding this recommendation to the Historic Preservation Committee and the Downtown Development Committee.

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

Chief Wilson introduced Dan Brock, the principal architect on the design of Fire Station 201 and Chris Miller, President of the Wilbur Homeowners' Association, to the members of the Committee.

Mr. Brock referred to illustrations depicting the proposed design of the Fire Station and noted that he and City staff have worked closely with the neighbors on the design of the station. Mr. Brock commended the neighbors for their valuable input.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the building will be brick, rather than stucco, as requested by the neighbors, the fact that studies determined that a one-story rather than two-story station would have the least impact on the neighborhood, the fact that the metal roof has been designed to accommodate six (6) apparatus bays without benefit of columns being in the way, Mr. Brock's opinion that the proposed roof is more appropriate for the station and the neighborhood than a flat or gabled roof would be and the excessive costs that would be involved in the construction of a flat roof for the station.

Mr. Brock encouraged the members of the Committee to visit the Red Mountain High School gymnasium and/or the Jefferson gymnasium to view roofs similar to the one that is being proposed. Mr. Brock added that the Committeemembers may also want to view the flat roof that was constructed at Mesa High School and stated the opinion that the overall effect of the flat roof is a large, boxy building appearance.

Mr. Brock commented on the fact that the station will be an "edge fill" rather than "in fill" portion of the Wilbur Historic District and stated the opinion that the design will complement the entire neighborhood.

Chairman Pomeroy commented that he has had an opportunity to view the proposal and said that the open-space areas, the landscaping and the layout of the project is attractive and appropriate for that location. Councilmember Pomeroy added that he does not like the "quanset-hut" appearance of the proposed roof. Councilmember Pomeroy expressed the opinion that the Fire Station at Superstition Springs has an attractive roof and said that he would prefer the construction of either a flat or gabled roof instead of the proposed rounded roof.

Committeemember Kavanaugh stated that this is the first opportunity he has had to review the proposal and said that although his initial opinion is favorable, he would appreciate more time to consider the overall design before voting on a recommendation to forward to the full Council. Committeemember Kavanaugh expressed the opinion that the roof line is appropriate considering the overall size of the structure and added that utilizing brick rather than stucco is also in keeping with the traditional look of fire stations.

Committeemember Jaffa stated that this is his first opportunity to review the proposed design and said that although his first impression is also a favorable one, he would like to see drawings depicting both flat and gabled roofs instead of the proposed roof, before proceeding with a recommendation.

In response to a question from Committeemember Jaffa, Ms. Miller advised that the neighbors requested that the open space area remain simply lawn and a walkway, without any fences or benches.

Ms. Miller commented on the strong support City staff has provided and thanked them for their efforts to assist the residents and homeowners in the Wilbur Historic District.

Chairman Pomeroy requested that Mr. Brock prepare renderings of the alternative roof styles, as suggested by Committeemember Jaffa, and questioned the amount of time that would be involved in preparing the additional drawings.

Mr. Brock stated that it would take approximately two months to complete the entire process, including presenting and working with the neighbors on the alternative designs. Mr. Brock said that if the Committee wanted to review the additional renderings on an information basis, without prior neighborhood approval, the time frame would be much shorter.

Chairman Pomeroy said that the Committee would like to review the alternative roof style drawings to determine whether they wanted staff to pursue a different roof design. Chairman Pomeroy added that should the Committee select an alternative roof style, the proposals would then be presented to the neighbors for their consideration and input. Chairman Pomeroy emphasized that the Committee is seeking an opportunity to informally review the two alternative roof styles.

Chief Compton stated that options will be developed and presented to the Committee for their consideration.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that he will meet with Mr. Brock and staff regarding the alternative roof design sketches and said that a Fire Committee meeting will be scheduled for either March 6th or 7th for the purpose of reviewing and considering the alternative options.

Chief Wilson also referred to a proposed project schedule for the Fire Station 201 relocation and noted that based on the Committee's direction relative to the roof, the dates may be revised. Chief Wilson said that the current schedule outlines staff's goal of bringing the project before the Council for bid award in November 2001, and said that construction is planned to begin in January 2002 and be completed in January 2003.

Chairman Pomeroy said that discussion of this agenda item will be continued at the next Fire Committee meeting (actual date and time to be determined by Mr. Hutchinson) and thanked Mr. Brock, Ms. Miller and staff for their input.

2. Hear a presentation on a centralized medical control program.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton said that he previously brought the issue of a developing a centralized medical control program for the City's EMS (Emergency Medical System) to the attention of the Council and had indicated that this topic would be a matter to be dealt with in the near future. Chief Compton stated that within the next 18 to 24 months, the health care system as we know it today, will undergo drastic changes and said Assistant Chief Gary Bradbury has prepared a brief presentation on this agenda item.

Chief Bradbury referred to overheads displayed in the Council Chambers and noted that the current health care system has not changed in 25 years and reported that Mesa has been providing paramedic services since the early 1970s. He stated the opinion that the development of a centralized medical control program is a much needed evolution that the City will be actively involved in. Chief Bradbury discussed the negative aspects of the current medical control operations, including established and defined pre-hospital services; limited physician/hospital participation with medical direction provided by nurse contact; increased patient care options and limited hospital staff support for ALS.

Chief Bradbury informed the Committee that current medical direction is not supported to a level that maintains consistency and added that hospitals are eliminating base station services locally, nationally and regionally. He stated that it is incumbent upon the City to provide for medical direction which will result in enhanced quality and control and commented on the possibility of establishing a regional system.

In response to a question from Committeemember Kavanaugh, Chief Bradbury explained that as the system changes and the City is required to actually pay for these services, one of three general options would come to bear: 1) contracting through the hospital for services; 2) setting up an independent medical control system through a contractor partnership, or 3) the possibility of operating an independent medical control system out of the Communications Center.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that staff wanted to bring this to the attention of the Committee as soon as possible but noted that the 18 to 24-month timeframe allows sufficient time for study and discussion.

Chief Compton commented that the proposal may impact the second year of the Departments two-year budget in the amount of \$650,000 a year.

Committeemember Jaffa discussed changing medical practices and said he was interested in reviving the former practice of bringing medical care into the home while ensuring that costs and transportation issues do not hinder the process of providing sound, medical services. Committeemember Jaffa said that the proposal deserves strong consideration and he supports the concept.

Chief Compton added that the program will provide the City of Mesa with the opportunity to enhance the quality of services that are provided to our citizens.

Committeemember Kavanaugh stated the opinion that the program will be integrated into what the City provides in terms of ambulance service as well and added that he believes the public will support the shift in services that is being recommended by staff.

Chairman Pomeroy thanked staff for their input and said that he looks forward to updates on this issue in the future.

Chief DeLeon addressed the Committee and said that the following Risk Watch Motor Vehicle Safety and Child Safety Seat Checks have been scheduled:

March 31, 2001, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Inspect and Install Child Seats, Fire Station #206

April 28, 2001, (April Pool's Day) Valley-wide Water Safety Day, Kino Junior High School, 848 North Horne

Chief DeLeon encouraged the members of the Committee to attend these events and said that he will forward written reminders to the Council.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Fire Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

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 22nd day of February, 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2001

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK