

FIRE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 6, 2000

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 6, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh, Chairman
Jim Davidson
Keno Hawker

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Dennis Compton
Linda Crocker
Bob De Leon
John Friedline
Dorinda Larsen
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer

STAFF PRESENT (Cont.)

Jenny Sheppard
Kim West
Paul Wilson
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Dian Gilmore
Gary Pierce

1. Discuss and consider issues associated with the Mesa Fire Code as it relates to requirements for automatic fire sprinklers.

Fire Chief Dennis Compton and Assistant Fire Chief Bob DeLeon addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item. Chief Compton stated that based on the fact a ballot issue requiring automatic fire sprinklers in all new residential and commercial construction after May 1, 2000 was defeated, staff is seeking direction relative to the manner in which to proceed with fire sprinkler requirements in the City of Mesa.

Chief DeLeon provided the Committee with a brief overview of the status of the City's Fire Code as it relates to automatic fire sprinklers. Chief DeLeon stated that the Department is currently operating under the 1994 Uniform Fire Code and will continue to do so as it relates to automatic fire sprinklers. Chief DeLeon commented that the 1994 Uniform Building Code is also in effect. Chief DeLeon added that the new 1997 Uniform Fire Code is in effect, but explained that all of the new requirements on automatic fire sprinklers will not be implemented on May 1, 2000. Chief DeLeon stated this includes requirements for all new businesses less than 5,000 square feet, residential and multi-family housing sprinkler requirements.

In response to a request for clarification regarding this issue, Chief Compton explained that the only issue to be addressed at this time is the pursuit of new requirements for automatic fire sprinklers and said that the remaining portion of the Fire Code remains intact. Chief Compton noted that the issue of commercial fire sprinklers has not been contested in this process and that staff is seeking approval to proceed with the drafting of an amended ordinance which would include commercial sprinkler requirements. Chief Compton also discussed staff's intention to meet with representatives of the home building and real estate industries to solicit input on the drafting of an ordinance that would allow residential fire sprinklers to be offered as an option to all new home buyers in the City of Mesa. Chief Compton noted that a draft of the proposed ordinance would then be presented to the Committee for their review and consideration.

Discussion ensued relative to the importance of obtaining input from representatives of both the home building and real estate communities, enhancing public awareness regarding the residential fire sprinkler issue, and the possibility of modifying the commercial sprinkler ordinance in conjunction with the implementation of the proposed residential automatic sprinkler system ordinance.

Chairman Kavanaugh recommended that this issue be placed on the agenda of a Fire Committee Meeting to be scheduled for April 27, 2000 and said that staff will then have an opportunity to present their recommendations regarding this matter to the members of the Committee for consideration and recommendations to the Council.

Dian Gilmore, representing the Arizona Board of Realtors, spoke in favor of pursuing staff's recommendations and emphasized her organization's willingness to support a mandatory fire sprinkler option for new homes in Mesa.

Gary Pierce, representing the Arizona Homebuilders' Association, also indicated support for pursuing staff's recommendations and commented that his organization looks forward to discussing the possibility of implementing a mandatory fire sprinkler option.

It was moved by Committeemember Davidson, seconded by Committeemember Hawker, that staff be directed to pursue the solicitation of input from representatives of the homebuilding and real estate communities for the purpose of developing a draft ordinance relative to the implementation of a mandatory residential fire sprinkler option and added that staff present additional information and recommendations at the April 27, 2000 Fire Committee Meeting.

Carried unanimously.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Fire Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:25 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 6th day of April, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2000

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK