

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 3, 2000

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Fire Department Briefing Session at the Fire Administration Offices, 40 North Center Street, Suite 115, on November 3, 2000 at 8:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mike Whalen

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Whalen from the meeting.

1. Overview of Five-year Operational Plan (2000-2005).

Fire Chief Dennis Compton welcomed the Council to the Fire Department Briefing Session and introduced personnel present at the meeting. Chief Compton also distributed an overview of the Department's recently completed Five-Year Operational Plan, which was developed in conjunction with the 2000-2010 Strategic Plan. Chief Compton explained that the Department's service delivery system consists of three major components including Fire Prevention, Emergency Response and Public Education.

Chief Compton noted that the goals created within the Strategic Plan have been narrowed to address years 2000-2005, and added that such goals from the six planning areas (Emergency Services, Facilities and Equipment, Fire Prevention, Public Education, Internal Support and Development, Regional Coordination and Interaction) have been expanded to address specific issues and strategies from a discussion and action-planning standpoint. Chief Compton also acknowledged the continued support of the Mayor, City Council, City management and the citizens of the community.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Chief Compton clarified that staff has the capability to provide the Council with a proposed operational plan geared toward future buildout in Mesa.

Chief Compton commented that regarding the Emergency Service planning area, a key strategy is the identification, establishment and implementation of alternative methods of transportation and medical care to enhance the Department's delivery of Emergency Medical Service. Chief Compton indicated that this plan may include partnerships with private providers or the formation of a City-owned ambulance service, expansion of the treatment and referral program, and the development of a public access Automatic External Defibrillation (AED) program in high traffic public use locales. Chief Compton also emphasized the importance of the paramedic recruitment program, wild-land firefighting certification and the decentralization and effectiveness of battalion level management.

Chief Compton stated that within the next five years, a minimum of three new fire stations are scheduled to open, and stressed that the locations of such fire stations is based on critical response time goals (3 minutes or less 80% of the time). Chief Compton explained that response times of units in the eastern portion of Mesa currently meet this goal only 25% of the time, and that Citywide, the goal is met only 30% of the time. Chief Compton added that a new Fire Department Operations Center is slated for construction within the next five years.

(Mayor Hawker left the Fire Department Briefing at approximately 8:20 a.m.)

Chief Compton advised that one of the major issues regarding Fire Prevention is the implementation and enforcement of Mesa's fire sprinkler ordinance, and providing the public with ongoing education relative to this issue. Chief Compton indicated that in an effort to ensure that new commercial buildings are constructed with quality fire protection systems, the Department's Fire Prevention staff members will participate with the City's Building Department in the formulation of a comprehensive plan to delineate appropriate information, standards and codes for the design, installation and maintenance of such fire protection systems.

Chief Compton noted that the Fire Department is currently in the process of completing fire service accreditation through the auspices of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Chief Compton added that with Mesa's increased population, the Department's workforce reflects significant diversity which strengthens the overall effectiveness of the organization.

Chief Compton enumerated a wide array of Fire Department-sponsored public education programs including the Connector Volunteer Program, the Risk Watch Program, an adult safety program and a drowning and water related incident prevention program.

Chief Compton announced that with the increased incidence of domestic terrorism in recent years, the Fire Department, in partnership with local, State and Federal agencies, has implemented the first of a two-phase disaster preparedness program.

Chief Compton concluded his presentation by stating that the Five-Year Operational Plan will be updated in 2002 and said that flexibility and adaptation are key elements of the organization's success.

Assistant Fire Chief Gary Bradbury referred to graphics displayed in the meeting room and provided a brief overview of the expansion of the Public Training Facility. Assistant Fire Chief Bradbury stated that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds utilized for the facility's construction were approved by the voters in the March 2000 General Election. Assistant Fire

Chief Bradbury remarked that the facility is utilized by Mesa's Fire and Police Departments and also functions as a Regional Training Facility.

Vice Mayor Davidson thanked Chief Compton and his staff for the concise and informative presentation.

2. Tour of current fire stations and familiarization of southeast Mesa fire facilities needs.

Assistant Fire Chief Paul Wilson conducted a van tour of various existing and proposed fire station sites and the Volunteer/Connector Center.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Fire Department Briefing Session adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fire Department Briefing Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 3rd day of November, 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

pag