



Minutes City Council Issue Review Session November 8, 2007

Minutes of the Tempe City Council Issue Review Session held on Thursday, November 8, 2007, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Hugh Hallman

Vice Mayor Hut Hutson (via telephone)

Councilmember P. Ben Arredondo

Councilmember Barbara J. Carter

Councilmember Shana Ellis

Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Call to the Audience

No one came forward to speak.

Kid Zone Enrichment Program Update

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Community Services Manager Tom Canasi

Tom Canasi summarized that the Kid Zone is an extremely popular before and after school childhood enrichment program that operates out of 19 school sites. The program has won numerous awards and has been recognized as one of the most outstanding programs in the region. It is a great education partnership with the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene School Districts and it assists in building enrollment at the schools.. Council has always been supportive of Kid Zone and realized its importance. As a result, Council authorized a significant supplemental budget request to improve staffing levels and the problem of a waiting list has been resolved. Last year, there was a waiting list of 166 children. This year, there is no waiting list. These services are vital to our children, and he extended his thanks for Council's support.

NO CONSENSUS – INFORMATION ONLY

Staffing New Fire Company/Heavy Rescue

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Fire Chief Cliff Jones

Fire Chief Cliff Jones provided an overview of the staffing requirements for a planned new fire company/heavy rescue.

- The Fire Department last added a fire company in 1994.
- The department responded to 18,680 emergencies in 2006 compared to 11,835 in 1994, representing a 58% increase. Response times increase because when companies are not in the "first do" district when a call comes in, companies from further away need to be sent in. The past three years have shown continuous increases in response time.
- This new company is identified as critical in the department's five-year strategic plan and it was the highest priority in the 2007/2008 budget submittal.
- The Commission on Fire Accreditation International recently completed an evaluation of the Tempe Fire Department, and a strategic recommendation was that "the department should place the planned additional company in service prior to and during construction of the approved Fire Station 7, in order to increase the response reliability of the department within its jurisdiction."
- This unit would be located in the central part of the City where the call load is heavier and where high-rise development and a rapidly expanding university lead to increased population density and increased calls for service.
- The company would allow for staffing of the heavy rescue vehicle that was purchased as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative Rapid Response System, a statewide program.
- The company would be staffed by six members at all times, requiring a minimum of 21 new members. This would be one crew with two available trucks, both a standard fire/rescue pumper truck, and with specialized training to respond with the heavy rescue truck.
- One of the five crew members would be a specialist to manage areas of operation such as hazardous materials response, technical rescue and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) response who would be on shift work and an active part of the team for major incidents.

Chief Jones continued that the staffing for this unit would require 21 personnel and the purchase of one fire/rescue pumper truck. Total cost is \$2,664,000 of which \$2,082,000 is recurring and \$582,000 is non-recurring (truck and equipment). Staffing this company is critical to having a fire department that is fully prepared to address the challenges of a rapidly changing city.

Mayor Hallman stated that this Council made significant commitments of nearly \$4M in recurring expenses for the Police Department upgrades. The Fire Department is the next critical area to look at. He asked if there are grants available.

Chief Jones responded that he hoped to get it started before the next round of SAFER grants but there is the potential for part of this to be done through a SAFER grant.

Mayor Hallman asked Chief Jones to specify what his proposal would be to get started.

Chief Jones responded that one option would be to roll it out in two phases as a standard fire company which would require 15 people as opposed to 21 people. Those could be operational and then a SAFER grant could possibly be used for the balance. That reduces the recurring cost by about \$600K. A SAFER grant is never a sure thing, but is something staff could pursue. His recommendation would be to move forward as quickly as possible to begin to staff this company at the beginning of the next fiscal year. That would require funding probably starting in January for those members.

Mayor Hallman clarified that his goal would be to begin recruiting in January of 2008 for the company of 15.

Chief Jones added that it would be his minimum hope to staff the company with 15 starting in January, so training could be done with the company ready by July 1, 2008, and then to move forward with the additional staffing at the earliest possible date.

Mayor Hallman clarified that in figuring out the fiscal issues, it would be best to try to get to 21. He suggested gearing up the Ad Hoc Budget and Finance Committee beginning in January to determine, over a six-month period as the budget process proceeds, if the resources are available to service the needs we have already identified and get this one done. This one is the highest priority we have.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that his committee asked that this recommendation start moving forward. If we don't move forward with it, the Chief will not have this plan in force by July 1. Council needs to authorize him to start moving in this direction. The City has \$3.5M in contingency, and \$8.5M in other available funds. He would expect to direct the Chief to start moving forward and there will be a commitment from this Council to state in the budget that this is the number one priority.

Mayor Hallman added that he thought it is bad practice to fund a recurring expense with contingency funds.

Councilmember Arredondo responded that he simply noted that there are two funds.

Mayor Hallman added that everyone agrees that this is the highest priority.

Councilmember Mitchell stated that public safety is important and he fully supports moving forward with this in the January to June timeframe with the new company in place by July 1.

Chief Jones clarified that to have the company on the street by July 1, it would be necessary to begin hiring people yet this fiscal year. From January to June, staff would need to do the logistics of getting those people through the training.

Mayor Hallman added that during that period of time, Jerry Hart and his staff need to determine where to find the recurring resources.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that Council does have a commitment for public safety. Council needs to look at different options for funding this.

Councilmember Carter recalled from the budget process that the new Fire Station 7 would require 30 new hires. She asked how the number of 21 fits with that.

Chief Jones clarified that the intent is that once this heavy rescue company is fully staffed, it will operate in the central portion of the City and a current company would be rotated out to Station 7. This would just buy time until that next company is needed.

Councilmember Carter asked for the total number of new FTE's required once the new fire station is built and this heavy rescue team is in place.

Mayor Hallman clarified that the number 30 comes from the concept of the joint fire station to share with Chandler.

Chief Jones responded that was the case. His analysis is that one additional company will help greatly for a few years and then it can be reassessed at that point in terms of an additional company. Fire Station 7 can be built and operated, presupposing this heavy rescue company is in service. We currently have seven engine companies and two ladders, and this will give us eight engine companies.

Councilmember Ellis clarified that the heavy rescue vehicle is already here due to a grant.

Chief Jones stated that both the vehicle and the equipment were acquired through a grant.

Councilmember Ellis asked if recruitment would have to be started from scratch.

Chief Jones responded that an eligibility list is in force.

Mayor Hallman stated that there was consensus to proceed as quickly as possible and work with the finance staff to determine options for funding. He would also direct staff to gear up the Ad Hoc Budget and Finance Committee, which includes the six-sided partnership, as well as five residents. The committee will make recommendations to Council for changes to the operating budget. This is a \$2.1M recurring expense that is not currently in our long range budget projections, and we need to make sure we have room to fund it.

Councilmember Arredondo added that this will send a strong message to the City Manager that this is the number one priority. He also commended the Fire Department for their skillful evacuation of 5,000 people during the recent emergency at ASU. They did an excellent job.

Chief Jones thanked Councilmember Arredondo and other councilmembers for their praise of the firefighters. The fire at the Student Memorial Union was a dangerous fire. Flashover that could have taken firefighters' and students' lives did not happen. Flashover is a condition in which the contents of the building simultaneously

reach their ignition temperature and the entire building lights up. The main job of a fire department in a structure fire is to prevent flashover. He added that it would be his intention to bring back to the next Council meeting a request to purchase the additional pumper truck.

Vice Mayor Hutson added his thanks to the firefighters for the outstanding job they did. This is the number one priority and we will have to find the money to fund it.

CONSENSUS

Staff was directed to proceed as quickly as possible, work with finance staff to determine options for funding, and gear up the Ad Hoc Budget and Finance Committee with the six-sided partnership and five residents.

Follow-up Responsibility: Cliff Jones, Jerry Hart

Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Annual Report

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Community Services Manager Tom Canasi

Tom Canasi summarized that the Youth Advisory Commission celebrated its twenty-seventh year of operation and has become a model for civic involvement for youth in the community. He introduced Allie Gorton, Chairperson, and Kimberly Trudgen, Vice Chairperson.

Allie Gorton summarized that the Youth Advisory Commission has been actively involved this past year in local and national events, including the first Youth Leadership Day at the State Capital. Last year's Chairperson, Ben LoBrutto, and Vice Chairperson, Jesse Bradbury, attended the 2006 National League of Cities Conference in Reno, Nevada, and they enjoyed exchanging information with other delegates. Over the past year, two events were sponsored: Student Government Day, and Youth Town Hall. The Student Government Day was well received by participants who gained insight on how city government operates. During the Spring, the Youth Town Hall was held.

Kimberly Trudgen summarized that current issues were discussed and recommendations were drafted at the Youth Town Hall. The issues underage drinking, internet safety and theft/shoplifting were addressed. She and Allie Gorton outlined the issues:

Underage Drinking

- Key factors of peer pressure, unsupervised social events, easy accessibility to alcohol, which lead to motor vehicle accidents and loss of friendships.
- Primary recommendations for the City:
 - Provide public service announcements that focus on the consequences of underage drinking.
 - An educational campaign could provide information which would discourage youth from making such reckless choices. The campaign could utilize multi-media outlets

such as television, radio, newspaper and internet.

Internet Safety

- The primary concern was education. Youth and adults are aware that internet safety resources already provided, however, are unaware of other risks including cyber bullying, “phishing”, and how to protect passwords.
- Primary recommendation for the City:
 - The City could provide information about internet safety through City mailings, such as the water bill. Tempe’s Crime Prevention Sergeant attended the Youth Town Hall and he agreed this was a great idea and noted that internet safety tips have already been included in the water bill.

Theft/Shoplifting

- One proposal suggested was to have police presentations in school. Since one of the main factors contributing to theft is youth not thinking it is wrong, school officers presenting a program of consequences of theft would be beneficial. The purpose of a presentation in the classroom or in an assembly would be to give statistics about theft and information for avoiding being a victim. Participants agreed that along with increased security, personal awareness and responsibility should be emphasized in school.

Councilmember Shekerjian stated that concerning the underage drinking issue and parent education, there is actually money available through the Arizona Parents Commission for Drug Abuse Prevention and Education. They are funded by the courts and provide money for grants on drug abuse and education for parents. There are two components that a grant would have to have. First, it would have to include a parent education component, and second, it is aimed at drug and/or alcohol abuse. That might be a good funding resource.

Councilmember Carter thanked Ms. Gorton and Ms. Trudgen for their efforts and presentation.

Councilmember Ellis thanked them as well. She added that she used to work for the Tempe Community Council and one of the main programs was the Open Horizons childcare program which came out of the Youth Town Hall recommendations. Thanks to that recommendation, almost 500 teen parents graduated from high school. Last year most of the recommendations came to her committee, and she suggested moving these recommendations to the appropriate committees.

Councilmember Mitchell was part of the Youth Advisory Commission when he was growing up. It does make a difference.

Mayor Hallman summarized that nearly all of the recommendations fall under the Education, Technology and Economic Development Committee, with a few for the Public Safety & Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that she would be working with Tom Canasi to do whatever her committee can do to support the Youth Advisory Commission. She suggested having someone representing the group attend her committee meetings when these recommendations are discussed.

CONSENSUS

The following recommendations were referred to the Council's Education, Technology & Economic Development Committee:

- Public service announcements focusing on consequences of underage drinking
- Provide education on alcohol use/abuse in early elementary school
- Provide parent education on underage drinking
- District-wide mandatory alcohol prevention education beginning in 6th grade
- Sponsor a safe driving support group
- Establish mandatory internet safety quizzes for internet users
- Provide peer led internet safety education in schools.
- Offer internet safety workshops.
- Incorporate the topic of internet safety into English class writing assignments
- Provide tips on internet safety in school.
- Implement mandatory internet safety education in schools
- Offer an education video on internet safety
- Implement or continue integrity instruction programs
- Have police presentation in schools
- Improve schools' Silent Witness programs
- Increase student awareness and personal responsibility (jointly with Public Safety & Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee)
- Increase security to identify hot spots (jointly with Public Safety & Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee)
- Establish mandatory theft/shoplifting education for middle and high school students
- Provide peer led workshops on resisting peer pressure
- Provide family groups focused on prevention strategies
- Sponsor a theft prevention awareness campaign on school campuses

The following recommendations were referred to the Council's Public Safety and Neighborhoods Quality of Life Committee:

- Provide internet safety information through City mailings
- Increase student awareness and personal responsibility (jointly with Public Safety & Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee)
- Increase security to identify hot spots (jointly with Public Safety & Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee)

The following recommendation was referred to the Council's Social Services & Culture Committee:

- Fun alternative activities for high school and middle students as an alternative to attending parties

The following recommendation was referred to Shelley Hearn for referral to appropriate committee:

- Develop a Public Service Announcement contest on internet safety

Follow-up Responsibility: Tom Canasi

Early Voting Site

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: City Clerk Jan Hort

Jan Hort summarized that she examined the different sites and she recommended the Wells Fargo Arena because it has adequate parking, adequate space, and follows the County's guidelines.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that there had been an outcry for early ballot location in a central location. He didn't understand that we were just to pay attention to the ASU students. We are encouraging people to live downtown, so if parking isn't a problem, he would prefer City Hall or the Westside Multigenerational Center so we can provide a service for our residents as well as ASU.

Vice Mayor Hutson agreed with Councilmember Arredondo. There is no parking left at ASU and he would prefer the Westside Multigenerational Center or City Hall, in that order.

Mayor Hallman added that in order to make the timeframes, a decision will need to be made tonight. His preference would be City Hall. The issue is whether a few parking spaces without meters can be made available on the west side of the building for voters.

Councilmember Mitchell favored City Hall.

Councilmember Ellis added that the memo states that it is the intent of ASU to supplement additional staff costs and provide ASU volunteers. If it is not located on campus, will they still be willing to do that?

Ms. Hort responded that they were interested in supplying volunteers, but the City would still need to pay for the County staff.

Councilmember Ellis asked if it would be available by the first day of early voting.

Ms. Hort responded that the County has committed that whatever sites we recommend for evaluation, they will be completed by December. Once they do that, an agreement is signed and it is sent to the Department of Justice for approval. The first date currently scheduled for on-site early voting is February 14th, however, there is a question as to when to begin on-site early voting. Based on current statutes, early voting begins 33 days preceding the election. Several attempts have been made to reduce the number of days to 26. Currently, the statutes stand at 33 days but this is scheduled to return to the legislature based on 26 days in January.

Mayor Hallman suggested the ASU Foundation Building at College and University because it has a parking garage, but the University would have to agree that the parking would be validated for parking without charge. It may be too late for this year, however. We will go forward with the following choices, in order of priority: the City Hall, with the caveat that we would control the parking, the Westside Multigenerational Center, and the ASU

Foundation, if possible.

CONSENSUS

Staff was directed to recommend City Hall, Westside Multigenerational Center, and ASU Foundation (if possible). Staff was also directed to evaluate the ASU Foundation as a potential site for next year.

Follow-up Responsibility: Jan Hort

Council Sub-Committee Work Plans

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Hallman asked if there were any changes or concerns.

Councilmember Ellis stated that the environment component was added to the Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee. She met with Chris Anaradian and he suggested forming an interdepartmental sustainability task force to provide a report for Council to analyze what programs, practices and initiatives are currently in place, what the cost would be, and what the operating impacts would be. That would help to prioritize. She commended Mr. Anaradian for his effort.

Mayor Hallman thanked both Councilmember Ellis and Mr. Anaradian for their efforts.

Councilmember Carter asked that these work plans be posted on the website under the respective sub-committees.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that additional items from the Youth Advisory Commission will be added to the Education, Technology & Economic Development Committee. She also asked Councilmember Ellis if mobile homes are listed in the affordable housing piece on the Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee.

Councilmember Ellis responded that it is part of the work plan on page 2 under item (b), "Explore options for displacement of mobile homes resulting from redevelopment."

CONSENSUS

Approved as presented.

Staff was directed to post the work plans on the website under the respective sub-committees.

Follow-up Responsibility: Jan Hort

Formal Council Agenda Items

No agenda items were discussed.

Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Shekerjian asked staff to return with an update on the towing issue.

Mayor Hallman asked the City Manager to reconvene the Ad Hoc Towing Committee to determine the status. It appears something is not working well.

City Manager Jeff Kulaga responded that the Ad Hoc Towing Committee will be reconvened with representation from the DTC, Police Department, Attorney's Office, the towing industry, and the City's Transportation Department to look at better signage, problem towing practices, and any opportunity to revise the City's ordinance. Recommendations will be brought forward to Council.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested having the Media Relations Director Nikki Ripley pull the video on the sting that was aired for the committee to view.

Mayor's Announcements/Manager's Announcements

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jan Hort
City Clerk