

MINUTES
HIGHLAND SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Highland City Council Chambers, 5378 West 10400 North, Highland, Utah 84003

PRESENT: Mayor Jay W. Franson, conducting
Councilmember Brian Brunson
Councilmember Larry Mendenhall
Councilmember Kathryn Schramm
Councilmember Claudia Stillman

STAFF PRESENT: Barry Edwards, City Administrator
David Church, City Attorney
Gina Peterson, City Recorder
Kip Botkin, Police Chief
Lynn Ruff, Finance Director
Jody Bates, Administrative Assistant
Craig Carlisle, Fire Chief
Brad Freeman, Deputy Chief
Greg Gardner, Firefighter/Paramedic
Travis Flygare, Fire Captain
Nancy Jones, Lone Peak Secretary

EXCUSED: Councilmember Brian W. Braithwaite

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jay W. Franson as a special session at 6:18 p.m., and notice of the time, place, and agenda had been provided the *Daily Herald*, and *Lone Peak Press* on April 28, 2008. The prayer was offered by Councilmember Larry Mendenhall, and those assembled were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by City Recorder Gina Peterson.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of a Budget Change Order for the Fire Station Furnishings, Fixtures, & Equipment

The Fire Station building is nearly complete and ready for occupancy. During the value engineering process of the building the plans were modified to meet a lower budget. The risk of all value engineering is that something may be removed that is actually needed. Barry Edwards indicated that generally speaking the value engineering has worked well and has saved the City money; however one of the items that needed to be reversed was the deletion of one of the bathrooms. The cost to add the extra bathroom is approximately \$25,000. The remainder of the change order covers furnishings which were not included in the bid package and are the City's responsibility. These include office furniture, fitness equipment, window treatments, and some commercial appliances such as a commercial extractor (washing machine) that will prolong the life of firefighter uniforms.

MOTION: Claudia Stillman moved to approve the budget change order for the Fire Station furnishings, fixtures and equipment in the total amount of \$150,000 as stated in the breakdown as follows:

- **All Furniture and Appliances - \$70,000;**
- **Weight Room - \$20,000;**
- **Commercial Appliances - \$20,000;**
- **Bathroom in Captains Office - \$25,000; and**
- **Window Treatments - \$15,000.**

Brian Brunson seconded the motion.

Claudia Stillman indicated she had a tour of the fire station this afternoon with City Administrator Barry Edwards and LP Fire District personnel and received answers to her questions. She stated the building interior is nice but not extravagant in its furnishings and feels that the completion cost amounts requested are reasonable.

Brian Brunson asked for a final cost of the building including all change orders. Barry Edwards stated the original bid was \$2,923,000 and this change order added to previous change orders total approximately \$250,000.

Councilmember Kathryn Schramm arrived at 6:24 p.m. due to circumstances beyond her control.

Larry Mendenhall said he believes the change order is appropriate. He was surprised at the cost of some equipment that comes from L.N. Curtis, but he stated that is part of providing municipal Fire service. He commented that the washer extractor will be well worth the price.

Claudia Stillman stated that the cost of a commercial dryer in addition to extractor is included in the \$20,000 commercial appliances portion of the change order. She explained that the extractor will get rid of the chemicals in the fire turnout clothing after fighting fires. She also commented that the upgraded lockers will assist in drying the clothing after extraction.

Barry Edwards indicated that a two year budget has been done for the building and a portion of these costs are programmed into the budget for next year; however some fund balance is being used to cover costs.

Kathryn Schramm stated her feeling that \$20,000 was a lot to put into physical fitness equipment, particularly if it is not used. Barry Edwards said one of the biggest hazards the Firefighters face is physical injury from lifting people. The physical nature of their jobs is high. If the City can provide them with a physical training avenue on a daily basis it is viewed as an avoided workers comp claim and an enhancement in the ability to do their job.

Deputy Chief Brad Freeman commented that new National Fire Protection Association regulations required firefighters to have at least one hour of personal training per shift. He stated it is a physical job and the number one killer of firefighters today is still a heart attack. Proper physical conditioning can mitigate this killer. He noted they went with commercial grade fitness equipment because it will be used numerous times daily.

Firefighter Greg Gardner was able to work with Summit Fitness to save money on the equipment. The several pieces of cardio equipment will encourage people to work out as a team rather than having one piece of equipment that is rotated throughout the day.

Fire Chief Craig Carlisle echoed the comments about physical fitness.

Kathryn Schramm stated the lockers that are requested are black powder finish which she knows to be the most expensive, top of the line locker. She said she has supported the Fire, Police and EMS, but she is aware of low economic conditions at this time. She asked if there were places money could be shaved.

Mayor Franson stated that when a change order is presented it is hard to see the effort that has been put into the balance between things lasting and being conservative, but there has been a lot of effort from staff to be very conservative.

Chief Carlisle commented the lockers will be advantageous to help the turnout gear dry properly.

Mayor Franson called for a vote on the motion: Those voting aye: Brian Brunson, Larry Mendenhall, Kathryn Schramm, and Claudia Stillman. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4:0.

Approval and Support for Highland City to participate in the Utah County Public Safety Dispatch Special Service District

Many cities in Utah County have contracted with the County for dispatch services of Police, Fire and EMS. The County has now presented an attractive alternative which will allow the users to manage the operations. They are proposing that a Public Safety Dispatch Special Service District be created as a taxing agency. This would be put on the ballot for voter approval in November.

MOTION: Larry Mendenhall moved to approve and support Highland City participating in the Utah County Public Safety Dispatch Special Service District. Brian Brunson seconded the motion.

Larry Mendenhall stated this concept is a far reaching and revolutionary diversion from the existing 911 services. It will be beneficial for the City to exercise more control of the expenses for the dispatch system. He noted one downside is that cities may have to fund it for a short period of time while it is being organized, but the City would be well served to be involved. Eventually, since it will be organized as a special service district, there will be tax funds available to support it.

Brian Brunson acknowledged the efforts of Chief Kip Botkin and Barry Edwards in their creative and aggressive approach to an ongoing problem with the current 911 system. He also recognized the work from former Mayor Ellertson who is now a County Commissioner. He feels the City Council needs to give it support.

Kathryn Schramm indicated she has been aware that the existing dispatch has huge problems. She likes the fact that the voters will be able to decide on the issues in November and feels it would be to the City's advantage to put out information to support it. She would like the City to educate the public on the benefits of it passing.

Police Chief Botkin stated the history of Utah County dispatch fees in long and rather painful. He feels the special service district is a great thing that will allow the City to have more control.

Fire Chief Carlisle also commended those involved in this solution and indicated it would be beneficial.

Barry Edwards noted there is still a long way to go before everything is final. If the concept is passed, he estimated the district would be able to collect \$10 per household per year. Operations are planned to be housed at the County, but if the Board of Directors think there is a better place for operations it can be moved.

Mayor Franson echoed Brian Brunson's comments and noted this has been an issue with the Council of Governments for some time. Commissioner Ellertson has championed the project and has support from the cities in the north end of the County. He stated it will be less expensive for Highland in the long run.

Mayor Franson called for a vote on the motion. Those voting aye: Brian Brunson, Larry Mendenhall, Kathryn Schramm, and Claudia Stillman. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4:0.

ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn Schramm moved to adjourn. Claudia Stillman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Gina Peterson, City Recorder

Date Approved: May 6, 2008