

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF WORKSHOP DINNER MEETING

Monday, September 13, 2010
5:45 p.m.

Conference Room C-104 - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue N.

PRESENT: Mayor Keith McGlashan, Deputy Mayor Will Hall, and Councilmembers Chris Eggen, Doris McConnell, Chris Roberts, Terry Scott, and Shari Tracey

ABSENT: none

STAFF: Bob Olander, City Manager; Gail Harris, Emergency Management Coordinator; John Norris, Management Analyst; Scott Passey, City Clerk

GUESTS: Shoreline Fire Department/Fire District Board of Commissioners: Mark Bunje, Fire Chief; Jim Fisher, Fire Commissioner; David Harris, Fire Commissioner; Rod Heivilin, Fire Commissioner; Ken Callahan, Fire Commissioner

Mayor McGlashan called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. There were introductions around the table.

Gail Harris, Emergency Management Coordinator, began the discussion with a presentation on the shared mission of the City and the Shoreline Fire Department, which includes the following elements:

- Shared Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Shared Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Shared Emergency Operations Center
- Shared Training and Exercises
- Public Education
- Shoreline Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Shoreline Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) Team

Ms. Harris concluded by discussing the roles of the City Manager and elected officials in responding to emergency events.

Chief Bunje responded to Council questions about the likelihood of experiencing residential fire disasters similar to those occurring in California. He noted that although

there are challenges related to infrastructure such as water supply, Shoreline is fairly safe for our region.

Councilmember Eggen asked how Shoreline is planning for responding to catastrophic events. Ms. Harris outlined the steps involved in responding to an emergency, which may include an emergency meeting of the City Council for briefings and to approve policies/action.

Turning to the topic of the Shoreline Fire Department, Chief Bunje provided an overview of the operations and staffing. He noted that the SFD has 120 employees and a five-member Board. He explained that making due with less revenue while maintaining services is the biggest challenge facing the SFD. He emphasized the importance of forging partnerships with the City in order to maximize dollars. He noted that the biggest compliment the SFD can receive is when people assume the SFD and the City are the same organization. He noted that this is a sign of success that service delivery is seamless and effective.

Mr. Olander discussed the City's partnerships with the SFD on technology issues, updates to the City's municipal code, code enforcement, and legal issues.

Chief Bunje emphasized the fact that economic problems are the most dominant SFD issue. Because assessed values have taken such a hit, the SFD has to reevaluate all their operations and how they provide services.

Mr. Olander said that the City would be glad to include news articles and information about the SFD in the *Currents* newsletter and also on the cable channel. There was brief discussion about the good working relationship and potential for further partnerships between the SFD and the City.

Mr. Olander asked if the SFD is considering any service charges or fees in the future. Commissioner Fisher responded that the SFD is looking at cost-for-service models and consolidation. He indicated that the SFD will probably be operating very differently 10 years from now.

Chief Bunje noted that consolidation/merger models are probably the future of smaller fire districts. He noted that SFD is part of a regional fire authority and operates quite efficiently. Commissioner Heivilin commented that the SFD probably enjoys the best relationship with its citizens than any other jurisdiction in the state.

Councilmember Scott wondered if the SFD is following any national trends regarding consolidation of fire services. Chief Bunje responded affirmatively but explained that most are happening in smaller, unincorporated areas.

There was discussion about the success of horizontally-integrated relationships, such as the relationship between the SFD and the City. Mr. Olander pointed out that a lot of savings are achieved in having a joint dispatch facility.

Councilmember Roberts commented on the lack of fire hydrants in his neighborhood. It was noted that Shoreline Water District is well-aware of the deficiency in infrastructure, and this has always been an issue. However, the SFD is fully responsive to all areas in the City. Mr. Olander noted that the City is currently negotiating with Seattle Public Utilities for acquisition of the water system, which can have many benefits related to fire safety.

It was noted that the legal question related to fire hydrants is being addressed by Seattle Public Utilities and the Water District, not the City of Shoreline.

Mr. Olander briefly discussed joint City/SFD efforts, including strategy and policy on Point Wells.

Responding to a Council question, Chief Bunje explained that the SFD is holding off on proposing anything different from the current sprinkler code until the City can create a uniform policy that applies throughout the City.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Scott Passey, City Clerk

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