

CITY OF SHORELINE
SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARY MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, May 11, 2015
5:45 p.m.

Conference Room 303 - Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue North

PRESENT: Mayor Winstead, Deputy Mayor Eggen, and Councilmembers McGlashan, Hall, Salomon, and Roberts

ABSENT: Councilmember McConnell

STAFF: Debbie Tarry, City Manager; John Norris, Assistant City Manager; Grant Raupp, Budget Analyst; and Bonita Roznos, Deputy City Clerk

GUESTS: Shoreline Fire Chief Matt Cowan, and Fire Commissioners, Ken Callahan, Kim Fischer, David Harris, Rod Heivilin and Jon Kennision

At 5:48 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Mayor Winstead.

Chief Cowan provided an overview of two ballot measures the Fire District is placing on the August 4, 2015 Primary Election Ballot. He explained that the Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) is intended to equal the loss of a \$.50 tax levy authority, and stated that the fee will now be commensurate with the amount of inherent risk that a building poses. He explained that the Capitol Bond is seeking \$9.5 Million over a 10 year period for the purchase of a ladder truck; rebuilding of Station 63; replacement of three (3) fire engines, a rescue apparatus, self-contained breathing apparatuses; and an additional outbuilding at Station 61. He distributed fact sheets and a flyer regarding the ballot measures. He noted that information regarding the ballot measures can be found on the Fire District's website along with a rate calculator that allows you to calculate new property tax rates.

Councilmembers asked about rate increases for commercial and multifamily dwellings, and if the FBC will be billed separately from property tax bills. Chief Cowan responded that on average, commercial property owners will pay more of the FBC and explained that 80% of homeowners will realize a decrease. He stated that of the 20% of property owners that realize an increase that 19.2% will have an annual increase of \$75 or less. He noted that property owners that are currently receiving a tax exemption will see the biggest fluctuation in their rates. He stated that the increased rate will be included in annual property tax bills. He added that undervalued properties will see the largest increase and stated that tax exempt properties are not exempt from the FBC.

Ms. Tarry asked if there are circumstances that can qualify property tax payers for lower rates, and confirmed that the City would receive an exemption. Chief Cowan responded they there are

property owners they may qualify for a discount or an exemption, and affirmed that the City would receive an exemption.

Councilmembers recommended that the Fire District inform the public of the other services they provide because they encompass much more than fighting fires. They asked if the Capitol Bond will support the new Subarea Station Plans which include increased density and taller buildings. Chief Cowan responded that the Bond will meet the Fire District's current and future needs.

Chief Cowan asked about plans for the 145th Street Subarea Plan, stated that Station 65 would be able to support that area, and explained why staffing would need to be increased. Ms. Tarry responded that most recent plans support a preferred alternative of either a compact community scenario with more height or a connecting corridor scenario with less height, but covering a greater area. Both of these scenarios were studied in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Councilmembers commented on adoption of the 185th Street Subarea Plan and asked what benchmarks determine when an additional station is needed. They suggested working with the Public Works Department to ensure that the Fire Department can make it to locations and asked if the Fire District has concerns about Light Rail. Chief Cowan expressed appreciation for City staff providing them information and reaching out to them early. He said he is waiting for the 145th Street Station Subarea Plan and the Corridor Study before further engaging the City. He explained that mutual aid and reliability statistics determine if an additional station is needed.

Chief Cowen expressed concern about response time to Point Wells and the Northwest quadrant of the City, and stated that a new station may be needed, not just for Point Wells, but for the entire area.

Councilmembers discussed trains that transport coal through Shoreline and recommended that the Chief participate in the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance. Chief Cowan commented that it is a hot topic and shared that he is sending staff for training. He explained that they are not equipped to deal with major rail disasters and expressed the need to leverage power to get training from the County and to help with changes to legislation regarding training.

Chief Cowan expressed gratitude for Gail Harris, Emergency Management Coordinator, for managing the Emergency Operations Center, and to the City for a great reciprocal relationship and for sharing facilities.

At 6:45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Bonita Roznos, Deputy City Clerk