

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 21, 2014

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 21, 2014 at 5:01 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Alex Finter
Christopher Glover
Dennis Kavanaugh
David Luna
Dave Richins

COUNCIL ABSENT

Scott Somers

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Dee Ann Mickelsen

Mayor Finter excused Councilmember Somers from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the April 21, 2014 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

2. Hear a presentation and discuss highlights of the Fire and Medical Department.

Fire Chief Harry Beck introduced Assistant to the Fire Chief Tara Acuna, who was prepared to assist with the presentation.

Chief Beck provided an overview of the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) service delivery and advised that in 2013, the MFMD responded to 55,915 emergency calls, 269 cardiac cases and 9,000 fire calls, of which 374 resulted in working structure fires. He noted that the Transitional Response Vehicles (TRVs) responded to 1,279 calls, with 1,000 of those calls for the nurse practitioner unit and 823 for behavior calls.

Ms. Acuna displayed a PowerPoint presentation **(See Attachment 1)** that highlighted the efficiencies of the MFMD. She advised that the department will be moving forward with a second five-year contract with Pierce Company for apparatus and repair parts. She also stated that the first five years of the contract will result in \$1.6 million in savings and \$98,000 for repairs

and parts. She added that the anticipated savings for the second contract will be \$1.7 million for apparatus and \$100,000 for repairs and parts.

Ms. Acuna outlined various innovative practices of the MFMD (See Page 2 of Attachment 1) that have allowed for cost savings and sustainability as follows:

- Addition of Five Dispatchers
- Paramedic & Special Teams Training
- Recruit Academy

Ms. Acuna further reported that five additional positions for dispatch officers have been included to improve the TRV program coverage and enhance the 911 Center calls. She explained that most of the savings generated in the MFMD resulted from readjusting team training schedules and partnering with area schools to provide onsite training at an estimated cost of \$7,500 as opposed to the regular cost of \$50,000. She also noted that a five-year savings of \$1.4 million has been projected based on the actual numbers of paramedics currently on the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

Ms. Acuna, in addition, remarked that staff will seek continued partnerships with local schools to acquire additional training rooms for the Special Teams that include the following: Hazmat, Technical Rescue Team, Airport and Wildland firefighters.

Ms. Acuna briefly discussed the Fire and Medical Healthcare Innovation grants and other Fire and Medical grants. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Councilmembers Kavanaugh and Luna, Assistant Chief Mary Cameli clarified that the MFMD Immunization Program continues to take place monthly at Fiesta Mall and area schools. She pointed out that the program is made available and sustained by grants and other community programs.

Chief Beck continued with the presentation and reported that the TRV Program continues to improve its level of community partnerships and services. He noted that there is a possibility that the name of the TRV program will change in order to better describe the multitude of resources and services available. He stated that the TRV model is used throughout the state and country and cited examples of potential names, such as Community Care Units or Community Paramedic Response. He added that further information will be provided to Council in the near future in this regard.

Chief Beck indicated that the Physician Assistants (PA) used with the TRV Units continue to provide 40 hours a week of service with the assistance and partnership of Mountain Vista Hospital's nurse practitioner. He said that MFMD continues to maintain advanced, high level emergency medical care, which includes a planned process from the time of arrival until all resources have been exhausted.

Chief Beck highlighted the innovative strategies that have been implemented with local behavioral and health partners. He stated that one of the achievements is the ability to provide expedited treatment and transportation to the patients at a lower rate as compared to the regular fee. He also noted that in collaboration with A.T. Still University, the injury prevention process has helped firefighters minimize re-injuries. He added that he recently met with State

Medicaid representatives, at their request, to assist with the Affordable Health Care Act and other health care plans.

Chief Beck further commented that Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care is interested in establishing a partnership, through the behavioral health services, with Crisis Response Network of Southern Arizona to enhance outreach for serious mentally ill patients, patients with substance abuse, and other behavioral health issues. He added that the partnership could lead to an education and awareness program to better coordinate, evaluate and support individuals and families through the Crisis Response Network.

In response to a comment from Mayor Finter relative to the fact that the services would not only help the community through the MFMD but also benefit the Police Department, Chief Beck explained that he has also received inquiries from the Mesa Municipal Court regarding such services.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commented that the center for innovation in fire service is “right here in Mesa Fire and Medical”. He stated that the City is leading the way in terms of the delivery of public safety services and the continued partnerships.

Councilmember Luna commended Chief Beck and staff on their professionalism and the commitment that they have made to the community.

Chief Beck responded that the services would not have been made possible without the MFMD’s many partnerships. He referred to the department as “an incubator for these kinds of ideas”. He stated that as the relationships with local organizations continue to grow, success will continue. He added that the concept of being a regional training center is not far out of reach thanks to the partners that have assisted with the services.

Chief Beck continued with his presentation relative to Community Service and Enhancements and noted that 80% of the calls are for emergency medical services. He advised that staff will be implementing self-help, prevention and awareness activities for children and seniors in the community (i.e. diabetes, seatbelt awareness, home security for the elderly).

Chief Beck highlighted the Fire and Medical Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and reported that the 2013 Public Safety Bond was approved. He also outlined the bond project update and stated that the Land Purchase/Construction Station 203 Communication Center is currently under negotiations. He also advised that a request for a quote for the architectural design will be issued within 60 days of signing the contract.

Chief Beck, in addition, also provided information on the following planned projects:

- Burn Room Repairs/New Construction
- Public Safety Training Facility for Fire and Police at the Communication Center
- Future Purchase of Fire Apparatus

Chief Beck further spoke regarding the need to replace fire apparatus. He recognized Fire Maintenance & Resource Superintendent Larry LaBarbera and staff for maintaining and extending the life of the current fire apparatus, which kept the trucks well beyond the manufacturer’s recommended mileage. He added that in the next year, staff will submit a

request to purchase additional apparatus. He pointed out that as part of the Bond Project, funding was acquired to extend fiber cabling for all stations to enhance training facilities.

Mayor Finter thanked Chief Beck and staff for their innovation at the MFMD.

3. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Councilmember Kavanaugh: Ike's Place Restaurant Grand Opening

Councilmember Glover: Town of Superior Fire Equipment Donation Event

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – Screening of "First Generation" and College Fair

Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:30 a.m. –Special Council Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:35 a.m. – Study Session

Friday, April 25, 2014, 7:30 a.m. – Luna Landing

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

ATTEST:


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK




ALEX FINTER, MAYOR

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 21st day of April, 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

MESA FIRE AND MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Department Overview
April 21, 2014



Efficiencies

- **Pierce Contract**
- **Innovation→ Cost Savings→ Funding Programs**
 - **Five Dispatchers**
 - **Paramedic & Special Teams Training**
 - **Recruit Academy**

Grant Update

- **Healthcare Innovation Grants**
 - FY 14/15 expectation - \$4,574,186
 - Three-year expectation - \$13,713,300
- **Other Grants**
 - Total - \$3,480,658
 - Includes
 - \$77,000 for Immunizations
 - \$2,954,460 for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Community Service & Enhancements

- TRV Program Overview
 - Suggested Name Change/reason
- Current Partnerships/Cost Recovery Possibilities
 - PA Unit
 - Behavioral Health
 - Local Schools for Paramedic Training
- Healthcare Provider Inquiries
- Prevention & Injury Education

CIP Update

- **2013 Public Safety Bond Approval**
- **Bond Project Update**
 - Update Land Purchase/Construction Station 203
 - Communication Center
 - Burn Room
 - Apparatus Purchase
 - Fiber to all Stations

Questions

