

**MEASURE H OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

September 17, 2014

5:30 P.M. Chairperson Silveria called the Special Measure H Oversight committee Meeting to order with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL Committee Members Cerny, Cool, Redfern, Shepherd, Chairperson Silveria

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS POSTED (OR AMENDED) AND CERTIFICATION OF POSTING.

ACTION: It was moved by Shepherd/Seconded by Cool to approve the agenda as posted (or amended) and certification of posting. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Committee Members Cerny, Cool, Redfern, Shepherd, Chairperson Silveria

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of options for the firefighters employed through the SAFER Grant.

City Manager, Toby Wells, presented a review of a presentation given to Council on September 8, 2014 on the six Fire Fighters funded from the SAFER Grant and various alternatives for those Fire Fighters now that the Grant is expiring.

The current Grant expires on September 21, 2014 and the next Grant is not expected to open until November, 2014 with the actual award of the Grant estimated to be approximately six months after that. There is no guarantee that the City will actually receive the Grant. The cost to retain the six Firefighters for 6 months to see if we will receive the Grant again is \$43,500 per month or \$261,000 for six months.

City Manager Wells presented four possible options for the SAFER Grant employees.

1. No retention – return to 2 person staffing at 3 stations and 3 person staffing at Station 1.
2. No retention – revise staffing plan with Station closure to have 3 person staffing.
3. Retain all 6 - No changes.
4. Retain all 6 - alternate staffing plan; relief staffing with station brown out.

The option preferred by Council is Number 4 - The Alternate Staffing Plan includes the use of six Fire Fighters with Station 3 brown outs to cover vacant shifts and maintain 3 person staffing. The estimated overtime savings is \$20,000 to \$25,000 per month. Staff would utilize the saving of the current vacant Fire Fighter position and request \$100,000 of Measure H Funds to cover the difference.

This item is scheduled for City Council final consideration on September 22, 2014.

Chairperson Silveria commented that he feels we keep raiding the Measure H Dollars for other items for the City. Chairperson Silveria stated that he was reluctant to use Measure H Funds for Police Overtime and is tired of the Police getting a bigger percentage of the money.

City Manager Wells stated that Option 4 was planned with the labor group, Fire Fighters and the City.

Fire Chief, Bryan Nicholes addressed the Measure H Committee stating that he would love to hire the 6 Fire Fighters but realistically, with this budget, it is not a viable option. He feels that Option 4 is a win-win situation for both sides.

Chairperson Silveria asked Chief Nicholes what Fire Equipment need to be replaced in the next couple of years.

Chief Nicholes responded that engines and trucks need to be replaced in the next couple of years.

Chairperson Silveria suggested that the City Council send out a press release to the citizens to explain what is going on with Fire Station 3.

City Manager Wells responded that this will be a part of the September 22nd discussion.

After some additional discussion the following motion was made:

ACTION: It was moved by Cerny/Seconded by shepherd to support the use of \$100,000 to keep the 6 Fire Fighters for six months until we know if we are awarded an additional SAFER Grant.
Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Committee Members Cerny, Cool, Redfern, Shepherd, Chairperson Silveria

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

6:23 P.M. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

John Silveria, Chairperson

Cindy Heidorn, Secretary