

SAFETY COMMITTEE

June 2, 2009

4:20 P.M.

Councilwoman Ladd, Chairman, called the meeting of the Safety Committee to order, with Councilmen Rico, Benson, Scott, Berz, Gilbert, Robinson, Murphy and McGary present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Chief Parker, Chief Cooper, Richard Beeland, Dan Johnson, Daisy Madison and Mayor Littlefield.

Chairman Ladd noted that we had Chief Parker with us and turned the meeting over to him.

Chief Parker went over **Resolution 7(c)** that authorizes an Agreement with Franklin Associates Architects, Inc. for design of the Enterprise South Fire Station in an amount not to exceed \$245,000.00. He stated that he would like to invite the Council to Fire Station #4 in the next few weeks.

He mentioned some requirements of NIMS, which came out of a long history of fires in California and brought this to light—also Katrina; that a small number of classes would be held—that Councilman Benson had already attended the classes—that this could be done on-line, and the councilmembers would have to take an on-line test. He explained that when we apply for grants, NIMS wanted to know if we complied—that it is a requirement from the Federal Government and is weeks out. He again mentioned on-line classes, stating that there would be two of these and some would have to attend; that he thought the older councilmembers had completed this and this information was just for the new councilmembers. Councilman Benson added that it was not an easy course!

Chief Parker stated that Chief Adams could go over this with the Council. He added that we could not request everything and have to be specific in what we request and that the Council played a role. He mentioned a grant application section for fire station replacement—that new rules had come out in the last four days, and we had to see how we would “shake out”; that they needed to get with the Mayor on annexation and were looking at East Lake for a replacement.

Chairman Ladd thanked Chief Parker and also thanked Chief Cooper for being present. She noted that it had been reported that Commissioner John Brooks had approached the Council about changing Court hours—that he had not gotten in touch with her; that Councilman Murphy had been working with the County to change the court time for officers with overtime. She reiterated that the Council had not been talking with the County Commission about this. She stated that we had started asking questions, and there would be a meeting next week with the Police Department to gather facts and to plan who we need to approach in order to move forward.

Chief Cooper stated that we had known this was the direction for 15 years about changing court times because of overtime requirements on our policemen. He explained that police officers work around the clock, and it is considered overtime when they go to court—that it costs \$300,000 a year for overtime in Sessions Court; that the Judge sets the court time. He added that it costs the courts money to schedule security and clerical people, and the cost for them would not offset our costs. He stated that there was nothing we could do about overtime—that most of their overtime was 911 calls and court overtime—that 911 had gone away.

Councilwoman Scott had some questions about overtime. She asked if it were not possible to give depositions so officers would not have to be in the court room—that depositions could be given in place. Attorney McMahan explained that depositions could only be given in civil cases, mentioning the article in the newspaper about the lady down in Georgia who had died after giving her deposition—that it would take some extraordinary situation like this.

Chief Parker asked if it was all right if they proceeded with their Resolution and thanked Chief Cooper for being present.

Councilman Benson stated that he appreciated the stand that Chief Cooper had taken on the gun situation. Chief Cooper stated that this came up for a vote tomorrow. Councilman Benson stated that if it helped Chief Cooper do this job, he would be all for this.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that if this was approved, we would be facing a horrible tragedy as a State—that someone would get hurt badly. Councilman Murphy added—or killed.

Chief Parker noted that Beverly Johnson was supposed to tag on to this meeting concerning **Resolution 7(f)** on next week's agenda to enter into a Professional Services Contract with Asset Property Disposition, Inc. to develop a Neighborhood Stabilization Implementation Plan for program funds in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. He stated that he served on a committee and would be glad to answer any questions.

There being none, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

