



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HEMET CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2012

6:00 p.m.

www.cityofhemet.org

Sister City Board Room

445 E. Florida Avenue

Please silence all cell phones

Call to Order

Mayor Youssef called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Council Members Franchville, Krupa and Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Foreman and Mayor Youssef

ABSENT: None

City Council Business Consent Calendar

1. **Recommendation by City Manager** - Fire Chief Appointment and At-Will Agreement

- a. Approve the appointment and at-will agreement for the hire of Mr. Joe Morris as the City of Hemet's full-time Fire Chief.

Brian Nakamura, recommended that the City Council appoint Joe Morris at the City's permanent Fire Chief.

K. Paul Raver, Hemet, spoke in opposition to the appointment. Mr. Raver feels that not following the recruitment process denies the staff and residents the opportunity of getting a qualified Fire Chief. The job specifications require that the applicant has previously served as a full time Battalion Chief for 3 years, Mr. Morris has only served in an Acting capacity. Mr. Raver recommended that the City Council complete a recruitment for this position and allow the Firefighters Association and other community members an opportunity to participate in the process. Mr. Raver also disagreed with this position reporting to anyone other than the City Manager.

Mayor Youssef, explained that a similar process was used to make the Police Chief appointment and Chief Brown is doing an outstanding job.

Nancy Singleton, Hemet, expressed concern that Mr. Morris has not served as a Battalion Chief and has not gone through a recruitment. Ms. Singleton recommended that the same recruitment process be conducted that was used when Matt Shobert was hired.

Steve Sandefer, HFFA, the Association requested that this position be filled, however it was expected that the standard recruitment process would be conducted. There was no input requested from the HFFA or the community.

Andrew Hall, Public Safety Director, presented Mr. Morris' qualifications to the City Council. Mr. Hall expressed concern that currently no Fire Prevention services are being provided by the Fire Department and outlined Mr. Morris' qualification in the area of Fire Prevention. Mr. Morris also understands the importance of Risk Management, which is also not being done currently. Mr. Morris' attitude toward the current EMS call situation and the need to prioritize Fire Prevention and Risk Management were just a few of the reasons that he is being recommended for the job.

Brian Nakamura, City Manager, explained the staffing and budget cuts that the Fire Department has participated in over the last 4 years. Station V was closed prior to Mr. Nakamura's arrival. Last year the City was facing bankruptcy. The City Council's sole direction was to determine what services were essential and what services can be provided more efficiently by another entity. This appointment will help our Fire Department to optimize their effectiveness and their efficiency.

Mayor Youssef, expressed concern that Fire Prevention is not being conducted at this time. Mr. Hall is recommending to the City Council to not outsource Fire Services, but instead look for ways to make the Department more efficient. The Association has been asking the City Council to hire a Fire Chief, now they want us to take more time so they can participate in the process. This is the same process that the City Council used for Chief Brown, which was successful.

Mayor Pro Tem Foreman, the City Council hired Brian Nakamura because of this ability to think outside of the box. Mr. Nakamura has hired a number of Department Heads and no one has complained about those appointments. Andy Hall and Joe Brann's recommendations for the Public Safety Departments has been positive. Mayor Pro Tem Foreman expressed frustration with the Associations opposition to the appointment that will ultimately help keep the Department together.

Council Member Franchville, all of the City Departments will be evaluated. This appointment is all part of the bigger plan to reorganize the City.

Council Member Smith, expressed concern with the lack of Fire Prevention services being provided. A Fire Chief that will lead the Department in an efficient direction is important.

Council Member Krupa, I have made it known that I am opposed to outsourcing the Fire Services. The Hemet Fire Department needs to do things differently. There is no need to compete with AMR for response times and it is not always necessary to run calls Code 3. This City Council had to decide to either save our city or consider filing bankruptcy.

Mr. Raver, recommended that the City Council consider taking applications and if Mr. Morris rises to the top that would be acceptable.

Council Member Franchville moved and Mayor Pro Tem Foreman seconded a motion to approve this item as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Brian Nakamura, City Manager, the City Council and the Executive Management Team will be behind Chief Morris. The City staff needs to work together as a team. It is my hope that the members of the Hemet Firefighters Association will give him their professional respect and support.

Communications From the Public

There were no communications from the public at this time.

The City Council recessed briefly at 7:03 p.m.

Reconvened at 7:13 p.m.

Discussions/Action Items

2. Mobile Home Rent Review Commission Interviews

The City Council interviewed Mr. Larry Bublely for the At-Large vacancy.

Council Member Krupa moved and Mayor Pro Tem Foreman seconded a motion to appoint Larry Bublely to the Mobile Home Rent Review Commission. Motion carried 5-0.

Future Agenda Items

Alcohol Ordinance

Moratorium on Discount Stores

Annual Calendar of Regional Events

Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:19 p.m. to Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.