



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HEMET CITY COUNCIL

January 20, 2014

7:30 p.m.

City of Hemet Council Chambers
450 E. Latham Avenue

www.cityofhemet.org
Please silence all cell phones

Call to Order

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Council Members Krupa, Wright and Youssef, Mayor Pro Tem Milne and Mayor Smith

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Hill, City Attorney Vail and City Clerk McComas

Communications from the Public

Gene Hikel, Hemet, distributed a powerpoint presentation to the City Council. Mr. Hikel expressed concern that the City Council approved to continue negotiations with CalFire in November with very little discussion. Previously Council Member Youssef stated that he would vote for the best service at the best price. Hemet Fire Department (HFD) provides necessary services. Their administration staff is not bloated but could be improved. They do need to have paramedics on their trucks. HFD does a good job meeting response times regardless of their high call volume. CalFire has a large administration of deputy chiefs and division chiefs that Hemet will pay for in the contract. CalFire has an EMD program, which both Citygate and CalFire indicated that Hemet does not need. However, Hemet will pay for this unnecessary service. Hemet budgeted the money to start a paramedic program this year and the community has indicated it would help. CalFire had a paramedic program in place. HFD and CalFire track response times differently. HFD provides flexibility in good times and in bad times. HFD has made cuts in staffing, as well as, concession in salary and benefits. Local control provides more opportunity for creative solutions. CalFire provides little flexibility. If Hemet can not pay, services will be reduced. Union concessions will not be made for Hemet financial problems. Table 5 of Citygate's report includes projected costs as calculated by experts. Mr. Hikel broke down the report by row. The difference in costs will be in the third year, due to one-time start-up costs in the first two years. Mr. Hikel expressed concern that if the City contracts with CalFire it will not be able to afford the contract in the future. Mr. Hikel asked why the City Council would give millions of dollars in fire vehicles and equipment to CalFire. Mr. Hikel also asked the City Council why they are ignoring the outpouring of support for HFD. In conclusion, if the City can afford CalFire, it can afford to keep and improve HFD. What is the best value a fire department that is flexible or a contracted fire department that is one price fits all.

Closed Session

Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments presented at this time.
The City Council recessed to Closed Sessions at 7:50 p.m.

1. Conference with Labor Negotiators
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6
Agency designated representative: City Manager Hill
Employee organization:
Hemet Fire Fighters Association (HFFA)
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Reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

City Attorney Closed Session Report

2. Conference with Labor Negotiators
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6
Agency designated representative: City Manager Hill
Employee organization:
Hemet Fire Fighters Association (HFFA)

Eric Vail, City Attorney, the City Council received a presentation for the City's labor negotiator and gave direction regarding the HFFA. There was no additional reportable action.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:57 p.m. to Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.