

MONTEREY PARK FIRE CITIZEN COMMITTEE
JUNE 12, 2012
MINUTES

The Fire Citizen Committee of the City of Monterey Park held a meeting in the Friends Room of the Monterey Park Library, 318 S. Ramona Avenue; Monterey Park on June 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Peter Chan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Lillian Bow called the roll:

Committee Members Present: Chan, Chandler, Isozaki, Morin, Rubin

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Talbot, Fire Chief Birrell, Battalion Chief Harper, Battalion Chief Khail, Battalion Chief Leasure, and Committee Clerk Bow

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Before Oral Communications was heard, City Manager Talbot asked that Item No. 5, Request to Make Public the City Attorney's Legal Opinion, be heard first.

City Manager Talbot informed the Committee that the Committee's request to the City Council to make public the written legal opinion on the fire transfer issue went to Council on June 6, 2012. The City Council voted 3-2 to not release the written legal opinion. However, the City Council directed the City Attorney to attend the Fire Citizen Committee's meeting to answer any questions. Due to scheduling conflicts, the City Attorney and the Deputy City Attorney, could not attend the meeting tonight, but will be scheduled for July 9th.

Oral Communications:

- Nancy Arcuri – questioned the continuance of the Ad Hoc Committee since the resignation of Council Member Betty Chu; in addition to speaking on the status of her Ad Hoc Committee appointment Council Member Chu made, and the issue of brown outs and fiscal budget.
- Terry De Wolfe – spoke on the fire transfer issue, staffing levels, and history of actions with regard to the request being made to the County for a proposal, and the suspension of the Ad Hoc Committee until the ESCI report is available.
- Council Member Teresa Real Sebastian provided an explanation as to her decision about the written legal opinion.
- Betty Chu spoke on the issue of the written legal opinion and proceeding with the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee.

City Manager Talbot stated there was a question that came up regarding the appointment of former Mayor Betty Tom Chu's appointment, to which he stated the appointment will last until a replacement for former Council Woman Chu is sworn in and a replacement made.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) May 14th minutes - Committee Member Chandler made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Committee Member Isozaki. All in favor say Aye?

Aye: Chan, Chandler, Isozaki, Morin, Rubin

Naes: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

- B) May 29th minutes - after a few corrections were brought up by Chair Chan and Committee Member Rubin, Committee Member Rubin made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Committee Member Chandler. The following vote was taken:

Ayes: Chan, Chandler, Isozaki, Morin, Rubin

Naes: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. REQUEST TO MAKE PUBLIC THE CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL OPINION

Chair Chan mentioned his thoughts on the importance of releasing the written legal opinion and redacting the portions of the opinion deemed not relevant. City Manager Talbot explained the Attorney-Client privilege and Council's decision. He added the City Attorney will be present at the next meeting and can answer any questions relevant to the Committee's issue.

Chair Chan then expressed his concerns with regard to how the City Attorney will respond and not provide a standard response of attorney-client privilege. City Manager Talbot spoke on the City Council's direction and assured the members it is the intent for the City Attorney to answer their questions as much as possible that is within the scope of the Ad Hoc Committee's area and deemed pertinent to their scope of work.

NEW BUSINESS

6. THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY – CONVERSION COSTS

Chief provided a brief synopsis as to how the conversion costs were derived and the process undertaken by the Fire District, which included an assessment and inventorying team, before providing a section by section review of the Fire District Proposed Conversion Costs.

Some of the questions or topics of discussion that arose during this review were on apparatus and vehicle longevity and repair costs, grant-funded equipment, and costs to purchase firefighting equipment, budget line items, and capital replacement programs.

Chief Birrell provided a review of the City's Counter Proposal to the Fire District made on February 13, 2012 to Chief Osby and his personnel.

Some of the topics of discussion were an explanation of surge capacity, automatic and mutual aid, staff, and paramedic service with regard to Monterey Park's service delivery model as compared to the County's service.

It was noted that during the discussion of the Inventory Credits, an error was found on the Total Value for the 2004 Ford F-550 Truck, which made the total on the "Excess Inventory Credit" total \$935,931.78. The correct total should be \$895,931.78.

After the review was completed, Chief Birrell informed the Committee that Chief Osby responded to the City's Counter Proposal, which is included in their binder. In addition, after clarification on a few issues between Chief Birrell and Chief Osby was made, Chief Osby sent an additional Counter in the form of a letter. This was provided to the Committee Members attached to their agenda packet sent via email.

Chair Chan adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.