

**FIRE CITIZEN COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 9, 2012 MINUTES**

The Fire Citizen Committee of the City of Monterey Park held a meeting in the Community Room of City Hall, 320 West Newmark Avenue; Monterey Park, California on July 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Chan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Clerk Bow called the roll:

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

Also Present: City Manager Talbot, Fire Chief Birrell, Battalion Chief Khail, Battalion Chief Leasure, and Lillian Bow

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Nancy Arcuri spoke about the presence of the City Attorney at today's meeting and providing his legal opinion on Measure J.
- Terry DeWolfe spoke on the existing staffing issue and the County's proposal, staffing and service levels relative to the Municipal Code requirements, the presence of the fire personnel at the Committee meetings, looking at other cities that have County fire services, the Committee having more responsibility for their own agendas and the definition of Measure J.
- Tilda DeWolfe talked about her disappointment with seeing who was running the Committee meetings and who initiated the fire transfer issue.
- Yukio Kawaratani spoke on the City Attorney's written legal opinion on Municipal Code Section 2.40.065 and providing a copy of the opinion for the public, domination of the Committee meetings by the City Manager and fire personnel, and the "Los Angeles Times" article about the City of Pomona's budget issue

Committee Members discussed time allotments for Oral Communications speakers. Committee Member Rubin made a motion to provide an option of extending the time after three minutes by 30 seconds to allow the speaker to wrap it up or extend time by 30 second increments. This was seconded by Committee Member Isozaki. The following is the vote:

Aye: Chan, Chandler, Isozaki, Morin, Rubin
Naes: None
Abstain: None

Motion carried.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Member Chandler made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Committee Member Isozaki. Chair Chan asked if there was any discussion; if not, he asked members to vote:

Aye: Chan, Chandler, Isozaki, Morin, Rubin
Naes: None
Abstain: None

Motion carried.

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

The Committee Members spoke on the issue of the written legal opinion, directed questions to the City Attorney relative to the legal opinion and after considerable discussion, the City Attorney responded. City Attorney Hensley emphasized that he could only follow the directive of the City Council, which was to attend the meeting and verbally respond to specific, substantive questions related to the Municipal Code and the Committee's tasks. Should Committee members be interested in determining specifics regarding the City Council's directive, the City Attorney advised the members this discussion would have to be with the City Council.

City Attorney Hensley spoke on issues such as the legality of the Committee, which he stated the Committee was appropriately established; provided the first sentence of the written legal opinion; provided his opinion that the court would find the reduction in staffing from 17 to 12 not consistent with the requirement of that Code Section; the Committee proceeding to meet without receipt of the independent analysis was appropriate; equipment reduction and the Municipal Code requirement; time limits as to the savings, such as first year only; and the difficulty of interpreting the word "significant" by lawyers and the court.

Upon exit of the City Attorney, the Committee Members requested visiting other cities currently contracting with LA County Fire and this meeting would replace the August meeting. The Committee Members wanted to get information from cities that had already gone through the process. In addition to this decision, City Manager Talbot mentioned the recent news article on the City of Covina and their budget issues. He said he will get the Committee Members a copy.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. **RESPONSE TO MONTEREY PARK'S COUNTER PROPOSAL BY THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Chief Birrell provided a review of LA County Fire District's response to Monterey Park's Counter Proposal and the revised numbers relating to the ambulance and Quint cost share formula, resulting in a final annual cost to the City of \$8,191,512. City Manager Talbot mentioned the changes in the proposal resulted in a delay for the ESCI report as they needed to include the new numbers and update all relevant data.

7. EMERGENCY SERVICES VIDEO

Chief Birrell stated questions were previously asked about paramedic operations and different service deliveries. He brought a video about emergency medical services, which includes several different agencies such as Burbank, Glendale, Monterey Park, County of Los Angeles and several others. The video is about 20 minutes long.

City Manager Talbot said we can show the video after the meeting is adjourned since it is 8:00 p.m. Those who wish to view the video may stay.

8. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

The Committee Members also determined that the next meeting would be September 11th at 6:00 p.m. for ESCI to present their independent analysis.

9. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.