

SPECIAL MEETING

Joint Meeting with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
November 10, 1998

CALL TO ORDER:

The special meeting with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was called to order by Mayor Rob Drake, at Saylor's Old Country Kitchen Restaurant, at 4655 SW Griffith Drive, Beaverton, Oregon 97005, at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Those present in addition to Mayor Drake were Counc. Dennis Doyle, Forrest Soth, Cathy Stanton, Evelyn Brzezinski, and Wes Yuen. Also present from the City were Patrick O'Claire, Finance Director; Bill Scheiderich, Assistant City Attorney; and Sue Nelson, Deputy City Recorder.

Board members and staff present from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) were: Jeff Johnson, Fire Chief; Dave Austin, Assistant Chief; Gary Nees, Administrative Chief; Tim Birr, Dir. Of Community Services; Jeff Grunewald, Fire Marshal; Alec Jensen, Executive Officer; Dave Halley, Captain #254; Jim Mooney, John Brett, Captian #266; Dustin Morrow, Captioan #267; Bob Wyffels, Board Vice President; Larry Goff and Brian Cloption, Board Members.

Mayor Drake welcomed everyone and said he was proud of the working relationship the City had with the District and the support that was given by the City Council. He introduced Council President, Wes Yuen, who would preside over the meeting.

Mayor Drake was excused and left for another meeting.

Station 267 Update: Chief Gary Nees

Nees reported that the underground utility problems and the roof should be completed in December and the expected substantial completion by the end of January 1999, with a move in date scheduled for March. He said there would be a formal presentation to the City Council of artifacts taken from the old building.

SB 122 Update: Alec Jensen, Executive Officer

Jensen said the cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro were working to define the ultimate service boundary. He stated that it began with a kickoff meeting and noted that the study areas were 185th and the School Districts' boundaries. He reported that the consultant had taken Sub Area Four (Johnson Road and Farmington Road) and included that area in the study as a third alternative. He said the impact would include two fire stations and the administrative complex. He reported that TVF&R and the City of Hillsboro Fire Department were reviewing the economical impacts, the impacts on the citizens, and were soliciting input. He said they were looking at December 30, 1998, to complete the study.

Coun. Soth reported that he and Carol Gearin (Board President) were on a citizen's involvement advisory committee to the project. He said there would be four public meetings to inform the citizen's affected by boundaries, and noted that the School Districts' boundaries were generally the preferred boundaries. He said the overall deadline was June 30, 1999, and the citizens would be polled either by telephone or written ballot.

Oregon City/West Linn Expansion: Chief Jeff Johnson

Johnson said when a community comes to TVF&R and asks for services they were evaluated on three criteria: (1) operational sense (2) financially viable to the organization (3) political environment and timing correctness.

Johnson said they analyzed West Linn for a year. He explained that they had entered into a three-year agreement and after two years would make a final decision. He said Oregon City asked for service; but they were told that West Linn would have to make the commitment first. He explained that Oregon City was a lot different than West Linn, geographically and politically, and said they would be cautious in the process.

Smoke Detector Initiative Update: Jeff Grunewald, Fire Marshal
Sprinkler Ordinance Update:

Grunewald said that Senate Bill 874 would require 10 year long-life batteries on all smoke detectors, and noted there had been some changes to the original bill. He reported that the District took a proactive approach and was able to sell 3,500 detectors to apartment houses; 1,800 were within the City of Beaverton. He noted they were going to conduct a Fire Safety Analysis on all apartment complexes. He said they went to the Building Code Division and asked for a local sprinkler initiative that would require sprinkler systems in residential occupancies over one story high. He reported that in August 1998, they presented the initiative to the Structures Board and the board upgraded it for study by the Code Committee for a statewide amendment. He said he was cautiously optimistic it would pass in January 1999.

Johnson said there was an issue of how to sell the value of the sprinkler initiative, to keep people from needing to jump out of third floor apartments.

He reported that they were willing to make trade-offs in the building construction features to make it cost neutral to builders. He said one of the variables was the water demand charge and since Beaverton was in the water business he wanted to touch on that issue. He explained that the water folks decide what size of line to run into a building and say that is how much of a demand it would have on the building, therefore they would be charged on that demand. He clarified that if normally the apartment would take a certain size of line, but because it had a sprinkler it would have to be larger, what TVF&R was suggesting, was to not charge the owner the extra money. He explained that the sprinkler would only come on if there was a fire, and one sprinkler head at 18 gallons per minute was not an issue. He said it was an issue when the fire truck showed up and hooked a five-inch above-ground main on the hydrant. He stressed the importance of the City not charging the additional costs, when the larger line would only be needed and used in the case of a fire.

Coun. Brzezinski asked if making the cost of sprinkler system feasible would mean building two-story buildings rather than three-stories.

Johnson said the fire problem was with the apartments, and any apartment that had dwelling units over another unit had created a hazard. He explained that if the window fell out it would take out the window above and the fire would go into the attic. He said triplexes were built flat, but building more than one story, the District would want to sprinkle. He said when a fire started the walls were good for one hour but the windows only lasted about ten minutes.

Coun. Brzezinski asked if three-stories also referred to a townhouse. She remarked that developers might not have an option of less than two-stories, since METRO requirements for 2017 would be to have 80% build out of each lot.

Johnson said their ordinance would apply to one- and two-stories, and for three- and four-stories the existing Code would kick in. He suggested people take the sprinklers out of their yards and put them inside.

Bond Issue Chief Jeff Johnson

Chief Johnson said it passed, and the District appreciated all the support.

Miscellaneous

Club on the Green Fire Tim Birr, Dir. Of Community Services

Birr reported that the significant apartment fire the prior week was just outside the City on Mueller Road, and noted that the apartment complex was constructed in 1991, just prior to the requirement of having sprinkler systems in all three-story buildings. He said the fire was at 10:15 a.m. on

a Sunday morning, and people escaped by jumping or climbing down from the third-story. He reported that it was a three-alarm fire; no tenants were injured but three firefighters sustained injuries.

Scheiderich asked about the construction material in that building, and what was the cause of the fire.

Birr explained that they had not ruled out accidental or deliberate causes; and said when the fire crew arrived the third-floor hallway was totally engulfed in fire. He reported that the hallway was designed as a fire resistant corridor with double sheet rock, but the sheet rock had been covered with an LP particleboard. He said six people jumped from the third-floor, including a six-month-old baby who was dropped down from a balcony.

Haz Mat Incident Chief Gary Nees

Nees reported that Willamette Industries had a small chemical spill on Monday, November 2, 1998. He said the spill resulted from a pump on a holding tank that malfunctioned and the chemical entered the storm drain into Fanno Creek. He reported that Willamette Industries estimated that between five and one hundred gallons of the chemical had been spilled. He said City Operations staff and TVF&R were called and the Haz Mat team declared an event. He explained that TFV&R crews placed soaking pads in Fanno Creek, and said they were concerned when the chemical (which had a strong odor) floated down the creek towards the trailer park on Denney Road. He reported that they tested the Creek through the night, but could not remove the odor, and about 1:00 a.m. they formulated an evacuation plan.

Nees said Beaverton Police held-over six officers to assist with the plan, and notified 109 residences at 2:00 a.m., but no one would evacuate. He recalled that early in the morning they drove around the area and the odor had moved away from the trailer park. He said part of their customer service was to help the business move through the crisis and to assure the community that they had taken steps to correct it.

Council President Yuen thanked everyone for attending, and expressed his appreciation for the updates from TFV&R.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Sue Nelson, Deputy City Recorder

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APPROVED: This 3rd day of May, 1999

Rob Drake, Mayor

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