

SAFER Council

March 4, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order:

Chief Snyder called the SAFER Council meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. via Zoom.

Present:

Mike McKeel, Dave Keller, Nolan Young, Steve Owen, David Clyne, Eric Schmidt, Janine Gladfelter, Greg Dirks, Bruce Nissen, Mitch Snyder, Scott Lewis, Frank Ray, Randi Deverell, Kevin Larson, Julie McAllister, Jason McGowan, Michael Traeger, Peter Graves, Justin Stranzl, Jake Davis, Lori Coppenrath

Absent:

Ray Young, Randy Lauer

Agenda Items:

- Fire Station Design/General Costing
- Current and Proposed Fire Station Locations
- Fire Department Staffing

Quorum: The City of Troutdale did not have attendees available to attend. The SAFER Council members determined a quorum was not necessary for this meeting. The meeting agenda did not require decisions or voting.

Fire Station Design/General Costing: DLR Group architecture firm representatives Justin Stranzl, Jake Davis and Lori Coppenrath presented on fire station designs and general costing. Initial planning steps include funding, location priorities and property acquisition. The approach is to develop a scalable prototype that may be customized for our operations and training profile. The prototype is adapted to the site, development costs and delivery model. Review of modern-day floor plans, sustainability, functionality, durability and community use spaces. Approximate construction costs range from \$800-1,100 per square foot. Additional costs include; project planning, land acquisition, permit and legal fees.

Current and Proposed Fire Station Locations: Battalion Chief Michael Traeger and Captain Peter Graves presented on current and proposed fire station locations and why their locations are important to reduce response time. The NFPA drive time standard for emergency response is four minutes or less. Reducing response time saves critical moments on every emergency call type. Ideal distance for stations is approximately eight minutes apart. Current challenges to meeting national standards on response time are stations located too far apart, increased population and new development. When considering locations for new fire stations considerations should include the urban growth boundary, city/county lines, existing new stations (will not move), rural/urban areas, traffic and natural barriers (green spaces) and land availability. Proposed fire station locations would improve response times for nearly every area in the service district and if staffed appropriately would meet national response time standards for all of the GFES area.

Fire Department Staffing: Battalion Chief Jason McGowan reviewed the history and current status of staffing. In this review, call volume is up 289% since 1992 (and well over 300% prior to 1992) with 0% change to staffing levels. To understand staffing needs, a review of equipment carried on various

apparatus types, followed by the recommended response for assorted call types and the tasks that must occur on each. Scene organization, medical treatment, fire protection, extrication, transport plans and overall safety are a few examples of actions to occur. Firefighters have responded to medical calls since the beginning. Firefighters respond to scenes as quickly as possible with a desire to help in any way. Private industry became interested in patient treatment and transport. As they are for-profit, firefighters arrive and provide treatment ahead of ambulances in most circumstances.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 8th