

**REGULAR ADJOURNED/STUDY SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COSTA MESA**

**March 8, 2011**

The City Council of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in a Regular Adjourned/Study Session on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 77, Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Council Members Present: Mayor Gary Monahan  
Mayor Pro Tem James Righeimer (arrived at 4:55 p.m.)  
Council Member Eric Bever  
Council Member Wendy Leece  
Council Member Stephen Mensinger

Council Members Absent: None

Officials Present: City Chief Executive Officer Thomas R. Hatch  
Interim Assistant City Manager Terry Matz  
Interim Fire Chief Kirk Dominic  
Public Services Director Peter Naghavi  
Development Services Director Kim Brandt  
City Engineer Ernesto Muñoz

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Brian Tyce, Fountain Valley, complimented the Costa Mesa Fire Department and expressed concerns regarding the possible shut down of Fire Stations in Costa Mesa. (00:00:37)
2. Mrs. Drain, Costa Mesa, expressed concerns regarding the possible closing of Fire Stations in Costa Mesa. (00:01:55)
3. Perry Valentine, Costa Mesa, felt it important for the City Council to understand all sides of an issue before taking action regarding possible closing of Fire Stations in Costa Mesa. He stressed the importance of understanding financial impacts as well as impacts to service levels. (00:03:27)
4. Sue Lester, Costa Mesa, reported speaking with many in the community who have expressed concerns regarding the proposal from the Orange County Fire

Authority. She stated the desire to see the Costa Mesa Fire Department stay intact and urged the City Council to let the community know what the financial impacts will be. Ms. Lester spoke in opposition to the privatization of ambulance services and suggested some property tax and drug enforcement dollars be used to fund emergency services. (00:05:56)

5. Beth Refakes, Costa Mesa, noted that currently, eastside residents receive most of their fire related services from the City of Newport Beach. She asked whether that would continue and expressed concerns regarding costs to residents and lower quality of service. (00:08:12)

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (00:09:32)**

### **1. Orange County Fire Authority Fire Service Proposal (00:09:32)**

Mayor Monahan reported this item will be presented for information only and that Council will not take action at this time.

CEO Hatch introduced this item and reported staff has begun reviewing the proposal for Fire Services from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). Interim Assistant City Manager Matz presented an overview of the services currently provided by the Costa Mesa Fire Department (CMFD). He noted that the proposal was requested by the CMFD to the OCFA. Mr. Matz listed parameters of the study including specific services being considered, all related costs, governance and impacts to CMFD staff.

OCFA Chief Bryan Brice presented details of the proposal including OCFA's operating budget, service area, number of fire stations and units, active and reserve personnel, management and staff, range of services and programs, apparatus transfer and facilities lease, the proposal process, OCFA's role and fire protection options. He presented details of three different options developed for the City including costs and staffing for each station. Options two and three involve one station closing under each. He presented a summary of the options in addition to the current model using the Costa Mesa Fire Department. All of the options keep the same units or increase them by one. Assistant Chief Brice presented a summary of costs and savings prior and after the fiscal year as well as a five-year projection of savings for the City using different assumptions.

Assistant Chief Brice explained details of the 4.5% CAP for partner cities and addressed additional savings and benefits of partnering with OCFA.

Mayor Monahan indicated that questions from Council will be noted and that staff will return to Council with a report including responses to questions.

Mayor Monahan and Members of Council inquired regarding fire insurance, manning standard differences between CMFD and OCFA for fire calls, response standards and

mutual aid agreements with neighboring cities, paramedic transport services and fees, plan checks, length of typical contracts, types of equipment by the CMFD, personnel and PERS costs, breakdown on facilities issues, responsibility for scheduling and paying work, breakdown of costs and benefits for services by City staff, "like-for-like" quote, actual response times and tracking and maintaining assets.

Discussion ensued regarding pension impacts to CMFD personnel, continuance of the CERT program, turn around and costs for plan checks, consideration that Costa Mesa is not bordered by wild lands, paramedic assessments, inclusion of comparable mapping data, personnel compensation impacts, breakdown of other costs and other identified savings, fire prevention service offsets, contract terms, segregation of pension shortage settlement and plans for reconstruction of fire stations.

Additional inquiries were made regarding inspections of apartments, timing of communications, benefits of a front-end paramedic system, placement of existing CMFD personnel, Fourth of July events management, impacts of closing stations, management of fairgrounds and South Coast Plaza, flexibility of options presented, helicopter unit response timing, the reserve firefighter program, historical data regarding the CMFD and OCFA for the last ten years and average costs per firefighter.

Discussion followed regarding different types of contract cities, comparable cities, service impacts related to the USAR unit and pension issues.

CEO Hatch encouraged Council and the public to forward related questions to Mr. Matz in the CEO's office at City Hall. He added that a report should be available within four to six weeks.

## **2. Pavement Management Overview (01:17:55)**

Deputy CEO/Economic Development Director Peter Naghavi introduced the item regarding evaluation of street pavement conditions (PCI). City Engineer Ernesto Muñoz provided a PowerPoint presentation including background, types of pavements and conditions, factors that affect pavement life, pavement managing tool, details of the pavement management program (PMP), update of Costa Mesa PMP, completion of a pavement condition survey, Measure M funding eligibility, MicroPAVER software, determination of a pavement condition index (PCI) and actions to take depending on the index number. Mr. Muñoz addressed the Costa Mesa street network and presented a current street network pavement condition summary, current street condition percentages, current alley network pavement condition summary, current alley conditions and comparisons to surrounding cities.

Mr. Muñoz addressed asphalt pavement life cycle, the advantages and importance of regular maintenance, common pavement rehabilitation strategies and costs, next steps, available revenue to fund street improvements, the proposed 2011-2012 FY street improvement program and projected PCIs for the entire network based on current funding. In addition he presented details of a projected seven-year program based on a

pre-determined desired PCI and the related necessary funding. He presented findings and recommendations and offered to respond to questions.

Discussion followed regarding mapping alleys, sections of the network to be worked on during the upcoming years, programming use of gas tax fund balance, alley project projections, funding needed per year to maintain an 85 PCI score, capturing historical PCI data, limitations of grant money, the ability to use revenues for enhancement of residential programs, use of slurry seal and specific areas needing reconstruction and maintenance.

Ensuing discussion pertained to projects that are already funded and those that are shelf-ready and will be competing for funding, funding for alleys and projection of funds needed to upgrade alleys. It was noted that parkways and medians are not included in the aforementioned programs.

Discussion continued regarding capital improvements necessary to upgrade and beautify parkways and medians and the possibility of establishing an "adopt-an-alley" program.

Mr. Muñoz reported asphalt alleys are very labor intensive and although they are less expensive, the department chose to go with concrete alleys because competitive bids were received and because of the longer life cycle.

### 3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The City Council reviewed applications submitted for Employee of the Month; a preference was indicated, absent any objection. Announcement of the Employee of the Month would be made at a subsequent City Council meeting.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS

None

### ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor adjourned the special meeting at 6:50 p.m.



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Stephen M. Mensinger, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Brenda Green, City Clerk