

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **June 22, 2017 @ 4:00**

David Gebhard Room

Comm Dev/Public Works

630 Garden St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Laponis, and Zeitsoff

Staff Present: Fire Division Chief Lee Waldron, Police Captain Alex Altavilla, City Engineer Brian D'Amour, Secretary Carol Lupo

2. Changes to the Agenda:

Postpone Agenda Item #10 "A discussion on the report received from Liz Scott relative to active Dance Permits" to the next scheduled meeting.

Agenda Item #9 will be discussed before Item # 8, (after New Business).

3. Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2017

MOTION: Zeitsoff to approve minutes of May 25, 2017. Laponis seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

4. Public Comment (Total Time 10 minutes)

None.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Christensen spoke with Fire Chief McElroy regarding the proposed sale tax and how it relates to Fire Station 7. More on this discussion following the infrastructure tax presentation.

Zeitsoff commended Officer Joshua Morton's recent appearance on the TV-SB program, "Guns in our society", along with the Coalition against Gun Violence, and for his work on the successful Gun Buy Back Program. Zeitsoff also commended the Junior League of Santa Barbara on their human trafficking project to create a rehabilitative shelter for victims.

6. Old Business: Commissioners may ask questions for clarification, refer to staff for factual information or make brief reports or announcements.

Laponis thanked the fire department as they recently responded on his behalf.

7. New Business:

Zeitsoff would like to discuss and receive presentations by Domestic Violence Solutions and/or the District Attorney's Office on the topic of domestic violence at some point in the future.

8. A Presentation on a Possible Sales Tax Increase on the November 2017 Election Ballot that would go to the City's Infrastructure Needs. This was a non-voting item.

Brian D'Amour, City Engineer, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled "Critical Infrastructure Essential to Community Services".

- Gave a history of the City infrastructure needs research and solutions
 - o 2008 Infrastructure task force developed the "Keeping Sana Barbara In Shape" report
 - o 2014-15 Infrastructure sub-committee established.
 - o 2016 Finance Committee discussions and develop a solution. Identified \$546 Million in unfunded, essential needs including:
 - Streets and roads. 2/3rds rated in poor condition.
 - Buildings, including Police Dept. and Fire Station 7
 - o The sales tax increase would fund infrastructure projects.

Christensen followed up on her discussion with Fire Chief McElroy and the status on rebuilding Fire Station 7.

- The facility has been designed.
- The sales tax will be critical to fund the project.
- The local USFS Supervisor that Chief McElroy has been working with, has been promoted and is now a regional representative, who will continue to keep this project as a priority.

On June 27, City Council will discuss on whether to place the sales tax to vote on the November ballot. This would be a 1% general sales tax increase.

9. A Discussion on Implementing Steps to Achieve Final Recommendations On: a. To study and assist in developing a recommendation to fund a new Central Police Station and Fire Station number 7.

Christensen stated there is no action to be taken at this time. Need to wait for the vote on the proposed sales tax increase. Commission members agreed to table this item for the future.

b. Challenges and funding impact to the fire and police departments related to federal and State budgets.

Christensen stated there is no immediate concern. Also in a waiting and monitor mode.

10. Monthly Fire Chief's Report

Provided by Division Chief Waldron:

- In regards to the discussion of Item #8, Waldron stated the Fire Department does support the infrastructure sales tax initiative.
- Ambulance Contract – County Fire Chiefs Association is working on and developing a Request for Proposal (RFP). Could address dispatch and jurisdictional boundaries and lack of closest available resources. Also may include a Mobile integrated health

component, which directs calls to other health systems (i.e. a nurse practitioner), rather than the emergency room.

- Fire Season has begun – 200 acre fire in Cuyama; another Strike Team sent to Coalinga.
- City – Fires on Los Patos Way, and at Garden St. / Hwy 101, both areas of homeless encampments. 900 block Mountain Drive, Multi agency response, 1 ½ acres caused by weed whacking, Some minor arson fires have occurred near Cottage Hospital and the Alano Club. La Colina Junior High 2 juveniles arrested for lighting palm fronds on fire on the roof.
- Firefighter training considering purchase of a ‘pump pod’, a prop which recycles the water used during training.
- Defensible space program – To date have cleared 16 miles of road, and completed 4-5 acres of vegetation management. Using Cal Fire crews for work. 300 tons of material has been chipped.
- Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance raised about \$200,000 at the recent Fire Ball. Part of the funds will be used to purchase a trailer for the Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT), to be used as working space with equipment.
- Monthly Stats report distributed.

11. Monthly Police Chief’s Report

Provided by Captain Altavilla:

- Comp Stat report distributed and discussed. Dept. remains under their P3 goals for 5 year response average, on priority 1, 2, & 3 calls.
- Staffing document:
 - o Officers - 6 vacancies. City Council approval to over-hire by 4. Can hire as many as 10. Oral board in process.
 - o Dispatch – 6 vacancies; some in background, and an entry level hiring process will begin soon.
 - o Parking Enforcement Officers (PEO) – in background
 - o Information Technology – 2 vacancies, one position to work with Fire Dept. is not being hired, and need is being handled by City IT.
- SNAP program – 3 civilian officers handling noise complaints. 128 calls for service since April and send repeat violators’ letters. Noise ordinance has been recrafted.
- Solstice, 4th of July and Fiesta – Altavilla provided information on staffing levels and coverage for these events.
- “Fun with the Force” fundraising event by the Police Foundation, Oct. 1
- Zeitsoff inquired on the status of the Fallen Officers Memorial. Altavilla didn’t have an update.

12. The abdication of the current chairperson position for the Fire and Police Commission and vote for a new chairperson.

Secretary Lupo read a letter from Commissioner Daniel, who was not present at the meeting, offering to serve as chairperson.

Laponis stated he had concerns voting for a chairperson when only 3 commissioners were in attendance.

Christensen requested that since 2 commissioners are not present, that Laponis serve one more meeting as Chairperson. Laponis stated that he will not be able to attend the next meeting.

MOTION: Zeitsoff to nominate Christensen as new Chairperson. Christensen seconded.

DISCUSSION: Laponis again stated that he was concerned about voting due to the absence of other commissioners, and proposed that the vote be postponed until the next meeting.

Zeitsoff withdrew her motion.

MOTION: Christensen to continue the vote on a new Chairperson, and also vote on the Vice Chair position at the next meeting. Zeitsoff seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

13. Adjourn

MOTION: Christensen to adjourn the meeting. Zeitsoff seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.