

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday June 22, 2022

Present: Jose Luis Bedolla, Shirley Dean, Tobias Simmons, Paul Degenkolb, Toni Stein, Nancy Rader, Kim-Mai Cutler, Weldon Bradstreet

Absent:

Staff: Khin Chin

Public: 4 Attendees : Benay Dara-Abams, Kelly Hammargren, C Chen, Alec Dara-Abrams

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

J. Bedolla called meeting to order at 7:01pm

Approval of the Agenda

Move Item 3 to Discussion after Item 8

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Kelly Hammargren- Environment and Climate Commission record commission meetings. Make a request to the Planning Commission through a public records request to obtain meeting recordings.

K. Cutler arrived at 7:07pm

W. Bradstreet arrived at 7:09pm

Benay Dara-Adams asked about the current status of the April 27 recommendation to City Council on Expanded Fire Prevention Inspections.

1. Fire Department Staff Report

DFSC Staff Report

June 22, 2022

1. Measure FF Monthly Report
 - a. Budget Overview – No Update
 - i. Program Review
 1. **Standards of Coverage Analysis** – The Department is undergoing an in-depth analysis of fixed and mobile resources to determine the best deployment model and to ensure the Department is responding effectively and efficiently.
 - Status: Working with vendor to provide additional data from the City that will allow them to complete the process, sometime late Fall of 2022
 2. **Project Management and Subject Matter Expert (SME)** – Through this contract, the Department has relied on a team of professionals that have varied background including in project management, information technology, videography, marketing and industry specialists that have specific skills in emergency medical service and training.
 - a. Status: No New Updates
 3. **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** – The CWPP is a comprehensive risk analysis that addresses local target hazards and includes a community-based action plan to mitigate threats, promote preparedness activities, and ensure resiliency. It will serve as the foundation and roadmap for the Departments work to prevent wildfire and limit the spread when they ignite.
 - a. Update: Staff is working with IT Department to create the online ARCGIS public portal and survey links.
 4. **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – No reporting for this month.
 5. **Retired Annuitants** – The retired annuitants are largely focused on performing vegetation inspections for properties in fire zone 2 and 3. They are also looking at transitioning the inspection from paper to mobile technology, re-tooling the re-inspection, citation, and violation process. The Department has also expanded its traditional hazardous fire area program to include all properties in fire zones 2 and 3.
 - a. Update: No New Updates
 6. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic Recruitment – Single Function Job Classifications & Recruitment:

- a. The Division has worked collaboratively with Local 1227 and Human Resources to draft single function EMT and Paramedic Job Classifications which were approved with elation at the December Personnel Board meeting and were approved by the City Council on January 18th, 2022.

- i. Update: No New Updates

- 7. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures.

- i. Update: Will have a Closed Work Session with City Council to deliver a mid-project report in late August/early September after Council Recess.

- 8. Dispatch Study: Our goal, per Council direction is to enhance the dispatch center so it can triage calls, divert non-emergency calls (including mental health calls) to appropriate resources like the SCU; and provide emergency medical instructions to callers.

- i. Status: No New Updates

9. Recruitments:

- a. Shift Fire Inspector Recruitment –These are filled by existing fire department personnel and are used to assist with fire investigations and other inspection related activities in the built environment.

- i. Update: In-service training is scheduled for July.

- b. Sworn Fire Inspector Recruitment – Recruitment is on-going.

- i. Update: No New Updates

- 10. **Division of Training Property** – The Department is actively engaged to find a piece of property that will meet the City’s needs for the training and development of its emergency responders and support staff. Due to zoning, the cost of property and the proximity of residential units to most property in Berkeley, this location will likely be outside the City proper. This presents exciting opportunities for regional collaboration with other fire departments and a community college district.

- a. Update: As we move forward with recognizing a property, we will be working with involved agencies to do a joint presentation to all of those city’s elected officials.

- ii. Implementation & Metrics

1. **Outdoor Warning System** – Site updates
 1. Zaytuna College – 2401 LeConte Ave (roof mount) – in permitting with edits required for building and property footprint and separations, site plan, calculations, framing plan and structural details loads
 2. City Hall – 2180 Milvia Street (roof mount) in permitting with edits required for framing plan.
 3. Harbor Watch Tower – 125 University Ave. in permitting with edits required for building and property footprint, separation distances, and calculations.
 4. Berkeley Animal Care – 1 Bolivar Drive (roof mount) in permitting with edits required for framing plan.
 5. Fire Station # 7 – 3000 Shasta Road (wall mount) in permitting with edits required for building and property footprint, separation distances, and elevation drawing.

iii. RFP Updates

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| Vegetation Management Inspections – Annuitants |
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2. Measure GG Monthly Report –
 - a. Budget Overview – No Update
 - b. Emergency Services Coordinator Position
 - i. The OES Division has hired for the open Emergency Services Coordinator. Leah Greenbaum will start on July 18th.

3. Department Activities

- a. One of the biggest news we have to report came up suddenly. Fire Chief Abe Roman is retiring from the City of Berkeley and has accepted a position with the San Rafael Fire Department. We are sad to see him leave the City, but recognize his difficult decision to do what he feels is right for his family.

Dave Sprague will be the Interim Fire Chief and Keith May will be the Interim Deputy Chief. The command team has been well positioned by Chief Roman to succeed. During the last two years, did a lot to flatten the organization, create transparency within the command group, and push information and decision making out and down. This has created a situation where one person’s departure – even an essential one – can be absorbed by the remaining personnel with little lost in transition.

- b. On May 24th, Fire Academy Class 111th will be graduating. Graduation will occur at Urban Adamah, 1151 Sixth Street in Berkeley.
- c. Grants – No new update.

4. Safe Passage

- Update: We have been working with Transportation and Traffic to repaint existing red curbs and replacing “no parking signs” that have faded as well as painting red in front of hydrants.

5. Call Volume Report

| Fire Department Report by California Incident Type | | |
|---|----|--|
| May 24, 2022 – June15, 2022 | | |
| Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney, | 18 | |
| Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris) | | |
| Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions) | 0 | |

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|--|------------|--|
| Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident) | 600 | |
| Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles) | 28 | |
| Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby) | 89 | |
| Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke) | 55 | |
| False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare) | 115 | |
| Severe WX (lightening, wind storms) | 0 | |
| Special Incidents (citizen complaints) | 1 | |
| TOTAL | 906 | |

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| Unit Utilization | Apparatus Count | 2,004 |
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6. Commission Actions Status

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| 12/1/2021 | Measure FF Oversight Recommendation- revised | | | In Agenda Process for 6/28 City Council Meeting |
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| 2/23/ 2022 | Request for Timely Fiscal Information on Measures FF and GG | | | In Agenda Process for 6/28 City Council Meeting |
| 4/13/ 2022 | Budget Recommendation for Parking Enforcement | | | Staff Review for Response; Fire Department, Police Department |
| 4/27/ 2022 | Measure FF Budget Recommendation - Expanded Fire Prevention Inspection | | | Staff Review for Response; Fire Department |
| 5/25/ 2022 | Annual Measure GG Tax Rate Adjustment Memorandum | City Council 6/14/22 | Communications Packet related to Item 17 | Submitted to Clerk for inclusion in Council Communication Packet |
| 5/25/ 2022 | Request for One Additional Meeting of Disaster and Fire Safety Commission | | | In Agenda Process for 7/26 City Council Meeting |
| 12/1/ 2021 | Measure FF Oversight Recommendation- revised | | | In Agenda Process for 6/28 City Council Meeting |

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of May 25, 2022*

Motion to approve as submitted: Dean

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Cutler, Simmons, Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 1 Abstain: Rader

Action Items

3. Commission Annual Workplan

This item was heard after Item 8 under Discussion Items

4. Update on Red Curbs and Faded Parking Signs/Repairs for June Meeting* (Bedolla)

Motion to allow Commissioners Dean, Rader, and Bedolla to finalize language of the draft recommendation to Council on remedial actions to improve emergency vehicle access and residents' ability to evacuate in the event of a wildfire: Dean

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 8 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Cutler, Simmons, Degenkolb, Rader, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent;; 0 Abstain:

Discussion Items

5. Community Communications About 2022 Fire Season (Bedolla)

6. CERT Training Recap from May (Staff)

7. New Commission Webpage (Staff)

8. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dean

Second: Stein

Vote: 8 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Cutler, Simmons, Degenkolb, Rader, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent;; 0 Abstain.

Adjourned at 9:08p