

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2023  
**AMENDED**

Present:	Jim Albee, Chair	Bob Baker, Fire Chief (absent)
	Renee Anderson, Vice Chair	Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Govt. Affairs Officer
	Rich Sokol, Treasurer	John Curtis, Deputy Chief – Emergency Services
	Sue Roche, Secretary	Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief – Community Services
	Kevin Leung	Dillon Miskimins, CFO Business Services
	William Shriver	Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services
	Bruce Stahlman	Bob Cole, Legal Counsel (absent)

Others Present: SMFR Staff Members & Guests

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Albee called the Special Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Albee led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

All of the Board members were present in person.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Director Roche motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Shriver. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**PARTNER UPDATE**

1. **Lone Tree URA** – Chair Albee introduced and welcomed Director of Economic Development & Public Affairs Jeff Holwell.

Mr. Holwell provided an overview, highlighting the following:

- Entertainment District Vision Book
  - Lone Tree Urban Renewal Authority, a city-wide entity
  - Entertainment District Urban Renewal Area
  - Entertainment District Urban Renewal Plan
    - Mimi's Redevelopment
    - Treo Development
    - Ichiban Buffet Redevelopment
    - United Artists Theater Redevelopment
  - TIF Forecast

At Director Sokol's request, Mr. Holwell stated that the Jack's Lone Tree project is already underway. The City hopes to purchase the old Treo soon to get it ready for resale in late 2024. The United Artists sellers are eager to sell, which is good and bad, it is a 12-acre site that can do a lot for the Entertainment District, but it will require a lot of planning.

At Director Shriver's request, Mr. Holwell stated that someday he imagines the business area just north of the old Mimi's will be redeveloped or money will be invested for improvements but that is not a priority right now.

Director Leung commented that ever since the bowling alley closed & since the theater is not doing well, the traffic has reduced substantially. Director Anderson added that access from some directions is better than others, you have to know how to get to where you are going.

At Chair Albee's request, Mr. Holwell stated that the TIF forecast he believes is from 2022 assessments. The vacant land by Furniture Row is owned by the same entity. Although there has been a lot of interest in purchasing the vacant land, it is raw and not graded with no infrastructure, but the owner is willing to sell for the right price.

At Director Anderson's request, Mr. Holwell stated that the URA is to encourage development through a collaboration of all of the partners.

The Board thanked Mr. Holwell for the update and the City for partnering with SMFR.

#### **DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

1. **2024 Budget Update** – CFO Miskimins stated there was nothing particular to update but wanted to give the Board the space to discuss, provide feedback on anything they would like brought back for the meeting in November.

Chair Albee reminded that there were a couple of things either outstanding or that the Board had talked about as options:

- **Proposition HH** – The Board agreed that if the bill passes they will conduct a public hearing to determine if we will be overriding the budget cap. The Board requested more information on what the cap looks like versus no cap, as well as the long-term projection graph reflecting the cap versus no cap.
- **Abatements:** After a poll of the Board Members, two were against collection whether or not Proposition passes and others felt it was dependent upon whether or not it passes and agreed further discussion is needed.
- **Mill Levy:** After discussion, the Board felt concern over the long-term revenue needs and agreed to keep the mill levy at 9.25. Chief Dell'Orfano requested Board direction on how to respond to the RidgeGate West Village HOA request. A response will be provided after the budget public hearing and the results of the Proposition HH election are known.
- **Budget Principles and Philosophies:** The Board was polled and agreed the summary created by Chair Albee correctly reflects their study session discussion.

The Board requested Staff to provide the information on the Proposition HH cap versus no cap and the long-term financial projection graph via email & schedule a special meeting before the end of the month to discuss further.

2. **SMFR Resolution No. 2023-09 Advocating Voter Opposition to Proposition HH** – Chief Dell'Orfano reminded the Board directed Staff to draft a resolution in opposition to HH as a discussion/potential action item. Staff used templates from other organizations to draft one specifically from SMFR.

The Board agreed the resolution was well done and stated the facts. Director Leung stated he does not disagree with what is in the resolution but questioned how it benefits SMFR versus the talking point sheet from the last meeting which did not make a stand and recommended one change to add a timeframe to the cost of apparatus or some other context in the 7<sup>th</sup> Whereas. Director Sokol also questioned the need to make a formal statement, but admitted if the Board is going to make a stance, this is a pretty good one.

At Chair Albee's request, Chief Dell'Orfano stated the resolution could be distributed through our normal social medial channels. We have posted our resolutions and proclamations as information for SDA and CML, showing a track record, as information for the lobbying and advocacy groups to use. At the Board's direction, Chief Dell'Orfano will follow up on sending it to our city agencies and let them decide whether or not they want to post it.

Director Anderson motioned to amend the agenda and move SMFR Resolution No. 23-09 Advocating Voter Opposition to Proposition HH to be an action item. Director Roche seconded the motion. **The motion carried with 6 in favor and Director Leung opposed.**

Director Anderson moved to approve SMFR Resolution 23-09 Advocating Voter Opposition to Proposition HH with the recommended change to the 7<sup>th</sup> Whereas. Director Stahlman seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor and Director Leung opposed.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

Correspondence items in the Board's packet are summarized below as well as other information items that were communicated:

- **State of the District Review**– Chief Eckmann thanked everyone for coming to the event a couple of weeks ago & provided an overview and asked for Board feedback.
  - Director Anderson stated that those who attended seemed to have enjoyed it. Would have liked to see the invitation list so that the Board could follow up to make sure people had actually seen it. Also, maybe more information on what was intended for the attendees during the first hour before the presentation, would like to highlight special groups (i.e., dispatch, communications) in a future presentation, and recommended using some sort of tracking software to show how many slots are available. The information was interesting, and she is proud to be involved with this organization.
  - At Director Roche's request, Chief Eckmann reported that the event was recorded.
  - Director Shriver stated he thought the event was good but was disappointed there was no representation by Parker. He would also be interested to see the invitation list in advance.
  - Director Stahlman stated the venue was terrific, the presentation was exceptional, enjoyed the explanation of PACE and he would also have liked to have make a few calls to encourage attendance.
  - At Chair Albee's request, Chief Eckmann confirmed that there were 30 SMFR personnel and only 45 external attendees out of roughly 200 that were invited. Staff did multiple invite campaigns to follow up on those they could see opened the invitation but had not RSVP'd.
  - Director Sokol stated that it was great event but suggested making the invitation larger, not just elected officials. Chief Eckmann stated that this was intended for elected officials and business partners but can certainly look at inviting the public in the future but need to be cognizant about controlling the size.
- Local 2086 Board Vice President Ligrani:
  - Thanked the Board for approving the Proposition HH Resolution. It is sloppy legislation by creating a 10-year solution to an 18-month problem.
- Chief Curtis
  - Shout out to the wildfire teams. Filled 21 resource requests at the state and federal levels. 71 people were deployed over the wildfire season.
  - ARFF Team mobile training prop was delivered on Friday. This was a yearlong collaboration with Centennial Airport.
- Chief Eckmann

- Staff is doing a complete website redesign for ADA compliance that will launch next year, aiming for March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Chair Albee
  - Director Leung's participation in the Castle Pines URA board has been delayed and Chief Dell'Orfano will be monitoring city council's progress.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)**

N/A

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

The next Special South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place within the next couple of weeks to continue budget discussions from this meeting.

The next Special South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

The next South Metro Fire Rescue Volunteer Firefighter Pension Board of Trustees' meeting will take place on November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Attested by: James E. Allen

Date: Nov 13, 2023