

September 29, 2017

TO: Laith Alfaqih, Law and Safety Chair
Law and Safety Committee of City Council

FROM: Brian K. Riblet, Interim City Manager 

SUBJECT: Law and Safety Committee Meeting of Monday, October 2, 2017

As a reminder, the Law and Safety Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, October 2, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Those agenda items to be discussed include:

1. Discussion of Fire Fund and Fire Levy— Fire Chief Paul Wright and Assistant Fire Chief Ben Shapiro will be present to discuss and review feedback from the Committee on the proposed Fire Levy and department staffing issues.
2. Other Business—The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity to discuss any issue or ask any questions that may be on your mind.

Also attached are the minutes from the September 5, 2017 meeting of the Committee for review and approval at Monday's meeting.

Should you have questions or concerns prior to the agenda topic, or have additional items to be discussed at the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

C: Law and Safety Committee Members (3)
Mayor and City Council Members (4)
John Crowell, Police Chief
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Connie Gaylor, Administrative Coordinator
File



AGENDA

**October 2, 2017
Montgomery City Hall
10101 Montgomery Road**

3:30 P.M.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Guests and Residents**
- 3. Communications**
- 4. New Business**
 - a. Discussion of Fire Fund and Fire Levy
- 5. Old Business**
- 6. Approval of Minutes: September 5, 2017**
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Adjournment**

These minutes are a draft of the proposed minutes from the Law and Safety Committee of the City Council meeting. They do not represent the official record of proceedings until formally adopted by the Law and Safety Committee of City Council. Formal adoption is noted by signature of the Chair within the minutes.

City of Montgomery
Law and Safety Committee of City Council Meeting
September 5, 2017

Present

Brian Riblet, Interim City Manager
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
John Crowell, Chief of Police
Ben Shapiro, Assistant Chief of Police
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

Committee Members Present

Laith Alfaqih, Chair
Gerri Harbison
Ken Suer

The meeting of the Law and Safety Committee of City Council convened in Council Chambers at 4:30 p.m. with Mr. Alfaqih presiding.

Discussion of Fire Fund and Fire Levy

Fire Chief Wright gave a presentation on the history of department services and costs. He explained that the department began Operations on October 1, 1993 with a station located within Hopewell Cemetery. At that time, there were six career Firefighter/Paramedics, 25 part-time Firefighter/Paramedics/EMTs. Operations were funded via an existing 3.5 mil Fire Levy. He stated that there was a total of 885 Incidents in 1994. This included responses to 602 EMS and 283 fire calls. The current Safety Center was opened in 1996. To support the increasing demands for service and equipment a 5.55 mil Fire Levy was passed in May 1999. This levy was anticipated to provide funding for 10 years. With this funding the department added two additional Career Firefighter/Paramedics and on-duty staffing went from 4 to 5. A Capital Equipment Replacement Program was created to replace the Quint, Rescue Pumper, Engine, ambulances, staff vehicles and operational equipment. The total number incidents continued to rise to 1,298 in 1998. 734 of these were EMS calls and 564 were fire.

Chief Wright stated that current day operations include funding still provided by the 1999 5.55 mil Fire Levy. He stated that the department has 9 career employees; 1 administrative position and 35 part-time employees. He explained that on-duty staffing consists of six on a.m. shift and five on p.m. shift. The total Incidents in 2016 reached 1,528 calls. 1,091 were EMS calls and 437 were Fire calls. He stated that based on current operations and projected income/carryover the Fire Fund will exceed the Targeted Fund Reserves in 2020.

Chief Wright discussed with the Committee the staffing, equipment and financial needs of the department to continue to provide the current level of services to the community. He explained with the loss of State funding and the Twin Lakes TIF agreement that the department is now recommending that the Committee consider the issuance of a Fire Levy to fund the purchase of equipment and the addition of staffing. Chief Wright provided the Committee with various options and financial data to consider and study, before a requested October Committee meeting.

Mr. Suer stated that he felt we need to target 2018 as the year that we need to place a levy on the May election ballot.

Mrs. Harbison asked when Chief Wright would need a decision. Chief Wright stated that November would be ideal, so that the process to place on the ballot could be initiated.

The Committee agreed to study the options and to meet back in October to discuss.

These minutes are a draft of the proposed minutes from the Law and Safety Committee of the City Council meeting. They do not represent the official record of proceedings until formally adopted by the Law and Safety Committee of City Council. Formal adoption is noted by signature of the Chair within the minutes.

Law and Safety Committee Minutes
September 5, 2017
Page 2

Minutes

Mrs. Harbison made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2017 meeting. Mr. Suer seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Other Business

Mrs. Harbison stated that the lack of observance of the stop sign at Pfeiffer and Deerfield has been a hot topic on the Nextdoor.com site due to the danger it poses when people run the stop sign.

Chief Crowell stated that Traffic Officer Scott Bierer has been posted on both roads to monitor it more closely.

Adjournment

Mr. Alfaqih asked if there was any further business to discuss. There being none, Mr. Suer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Harbison seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

The Law and Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Chair of Law and Safety Committee of City Council