

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Council Conference Room, City Hall

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Convened: 8:39 a.m.

Adjourned: 9:57 p.m.

Council:

Kim Allen
David Carson, Chair
Pat Vache

Staff:

Russell Albertson, Fire Lieutenant
Nick Almquist, Police Lieutenant
Karen Brandon, Fire - Business Operations
Manager
Tim Fuller, Fire Chief
Steven Harris, Police Chief
Robert Lovett, Fire Marshall
Elizabeth McAnlis, Deputy City Clerk
Shari Shovlin, Police Commander
Lynn Sjolander, Assistant Fire Marshall
John Stockman, Fire Captain

MEETING SUMMARY

Fire Department Update

Fire Chief Tim Fuller presented the fire department update, reporting on the state of Station 17, which is currently in the design phase. Goals include (1) building a structure with the ability to last 30 to 40 years and (2) building an apparatus storage room in order to store reserve apparatus inside rather than outside to prolong the life span of equipment. No date has been specified for the groundbreaking of the project; construction is projected for early 2009.

Chief Fuller reported that phase two of the Fire Station 13 project has begun and should last approximately 14 weeks. Also, promotional training will be offered in September to Fire Department employees. This training will be offered to all employees, not just those eligible for promotion, to increase officer and leadership skills. Overlake Church has donated the space for training.

Fire Prevention Operational Permits:

Lynn Sjolander, Assistant Fire Marshall, presented information on operational permits and a proposed change to the fee schedule:

PLACES OF ASSEMBLY NEW FEE SCHEDULE:

2007 Overview:

- Total number of businesses in FDM database: 2,527
- Number of permitted businesses: 569
- Number of businesses with Place of Assembly permits: 172

Permit Growth by Year:

- 2005: total number of permits: 1038, Assembly permits: 262
- 2006: total number of permits: 1132, Assembly permits: 303
- 2007: total number of permits: 1298, Assembly permits: 371

Cost Recovery Graph:

- Current fee schedule
- Proposed fee schedule

New Fees (aggregate) vs. Old Fees (per space):

- Assembly permit, level 1: new - \$50, old - \$100
- Assembly permit, level 2: new - \$100, old - \$150
- Assembly permit, level 3: new - \$200, old - \$200
- Assembly permit, level 1: new - \$300, old - \$300

Assembly Permit Distribution by Property Use:

- Current fee schedule
- Proposed fee schedule

Microsoft, Current Schedule:

- Number of buildings billed vs. non-billed, 2003 – 2007

Microsoft Trends:

- Permit amounts by year, 2003 – 2007
 - Total permit amount
 - Assembly permit amount
 - Permit amount other than assembly
 - Amount over cap

Microsoft Scenarios Comparison (includes assembly and other permits):

- Current amount with cap: \$10,000
- Current amount without cap: \$32,500
- Proposed fee: \$24,800

Other City Businesses (includes assembly and other permits):

- Current amount: \$38,350
- Proposed fee: \$27,650

Businesses with Places of Assembly Permits (Fee Comparison):

- Current total: \$48,350
- New total: \$52,450

All Permits Bottom Line:

- Businesses with assembly permits
 - Current: \$48,350
 - New: \$52,450
- Businesses with other permits:
 - Current: \$142,650
 - New: \$142,650

General discussion ensued on the current \$10,000 cap on places of assembly permits, details of the cap, annual inspections, and the equitability of the proposed fee schedule.

Chief Fuller concluded the Fire Department Update, reporting that approval was granted at the Tuesday, August 19, 2008, Council meeting of the Amended Lease Agreement for Medic One Operations at Evergreen Hospital Medical Center. Medic 23 will be moving to Evergreen Hospital, from Kirkland, following construction improvements at the hospital site. The Evergreen location will reduce response times.

Police Department Update:

Police Chief Steven Harris reported on current personnel, promotions, personnel exits, and available positions. Specifically mentioning the need for lateral hiring; currently the Police Department is working with the Human Resources Department on their marketing campaign in order to make Redmond positions more appealing to applicants. Chief Harris stated that the number of applicants should increase once labor contracts have been resolved and the increased salary range is in place.

Chief Harris also reported on Police Department activities/upcoming projects:

1. False Alarms Standards Seminar, Monday, August 25, 2008 (eventual enhancement of False Alarm Ordinances)
2. City Council Study Session, Tuesday, August 26, 2008 (Officers to attend and report on National Night Out)
3. Review of domestic violence partnerships, protocol, and prevention

Update Re: School Resource Officers:

Chief Harris reported on school resource officers:

- Two officers have been assigned: Edwardsen, Corson
- Attended meet and greet with Junior and High School students and teachers: August 18, 2008
- Will be attending faculty training
- Will train School District officials/administration on procedures
- Will conduct mapping of schools along with Fire, School District, and SWAT for development of large scale emergency response plan

- Will attempt to organize/reunite County-wide SRO group meetings

Patrolling Procedures re: City-Owned Parks in Unincorporated King County:

Committee members and police department staff discussed the current protocol for answering calls that occur in city-owned parks which fall in Unincorporated King County jurisdiction. Staff responded that every call received by the City of Redmond is acted upon, even if the locale of the call falls into Unincorporated King County. Specifically discussed were Perrigo Park, Juel Park, and Marymoor Park.

Speed Issues:

Chair Carson presented three areas of Redmond residents' concerns:

1. 104th/109th (down hill area, high speeds witnessed, need for crosswalks)
2. Cleveland Ave (signage overgrown, need for crosswalks, area of large growth over the next few years - need more traffic emphasis in that area)
3. West Lake Sammamish Parkway (after dark speed increases)

Police Commander Shari Shovlin announced that as of September 7, 2008, the traffic enforcement team would be adding two motors, in addition to the three traffic officers, allowing for increased street coverage. An additional motor may be added in February 2009. Training for the motor officers will be conducted with the Bellevue Police Department. Commander Shovlin also mentioned working with Neighborhood Action Teams to gain insight on citizen concerns and needs, in order to better service the Redmond area.

General discussion ensued regarding speed check/trailer options, reasons for increase in traffic, and possible quick solutions to help regulate speeding in specified areas.

Red Light Camera Presentation:

Nick Almquist, Police Lieutenant, presented information on the Red Light and School Zone Camera System via PowerPoint:

Program Agenda:

The Problem: Red Light Running and Intersection Safety

- Intersection are dangerous (40 percent of all crashes occur in an intersection; red light running accounts for over 180,000 crashes, 90,000 injuries, and 1,000 deaths per year)
- Red Light running is dangerous (63 percent of Americans witness at least one red light running a week, one in three Americans know a victim of a red light incident, 96 percent of drivers fear a red light incident)

One Solution: Red Light Photo Enforcement

- Over 350 U.S. cities use red light cameras
- 10 research studies affirm red light cameras are beneficial

- red light cameras have been shown to decrease the total number of serious crashes by 16 percent, and “t-bone” crashes by 26 percent
- Reduces number of violations, collisions, fatalities
- Positively affects driver behavior

The Public Supports Red Light Camera Enforcement

- U.S.-wide 2001 Harris Poll: 78 percent of Americans want increased intersection safety
- Seattle Public Opinion Poll – April 2006: 82 percent of Seattle residents favor installation of red light cameras

How Photo Enforcement Works

- Single digital camera technology (high resolution, slim line, high power)
- Fixed site speed camera for school zones
- Plate extracted directly from the violation photo
- Crystal clear images (also in rain and nighttime with ambient lighting)
- Consistent trigger and positioning
- Confirmed *Prima Facie* evidence
- Violation processing system and work flow (police department receives violation verification with DMV information from a red light camera monitoring company, reviews, approves or throws out, citations generated and distributed to violators, violators pay or dispute)
- Citation/on-line images and video review (for violator)

Getting Started:

- Do we need it? (Redmond intersections researched)
- No initial or service costs
- Seattle Year One Red Light Photo Enforcement Report
- Vendor recommendation
- Program cost (monthly fee)

General discussion ensued regarding costs of service, where the revenue goes, the relating Eyman initiative, specifics of the red light camera license plate reading capabilities, and construction/installation of equipment.