



Sedona Fire District

2860 Southwest Drive, Sedona, Arizona 86336
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SPECIAL JOINT BOARD MEETING
Station #1 – 2860 Southwest Drive – Sedona – Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 / 1:00 PM

~ MINUTES ~

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Pursuant to notice, a special meeting of the Sedona Fire District (SFD) and the Sedona City Council was called to order by Chair Helen McNeal at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Executive Assistant, Kim Smathers, recorded the minutes. A quorum was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Board Present: Helen McNeal – Chair; Corrie Cooperman - Clerk, Scott Springett, Diana Christensen, and Lance Waldrop – Members. Others Present: Fire Chief Ed Mezulis; Bill Whittington, Attorney; and Executive Assistant Smathers - Recorder. Representing the Sedona City Council were Mayor Scott Jablow; Vice-Mayor Holly Ploog; Pete Furman, Derek Pfeff, Melissa Dunn, and Brian Fultz – City Councilors; Annette Spickard – City Manager; Cynthia Lovely – Principal Planner; Steve Mertes – Director of Community Development; Kurt Harris-City Engineer; Lance Lunsway – City Parking Manager; and Kurt Christianson – City Attorney.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chair McNeal called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Welcome and Comments by Board Chair.

The Chair welcomed the city visitors and asked that everyone introduce themselves. The Chair then stated that she hoped that all could come to a resolution that worked for everyone and created a positive place to build upon and move forward. Mayor Jablow stated that he appreciated the open dialog and hoped that a resolution could be decided upon as soon as possible.

3. Presentation by the Fire Chief.

Chief Mezulis thanked everyone for attending, noting that everyone should have received the appraisals. He noted that there have been preliminary conversations with contractors and architects, and that one resident of the discussed property in Uptown near the existing Station 4 is adamant regarding not selling his property and trying to imminent domain it would add years and expense to the process.

4. Special Business

A. AB3077 Discussion/Possible Direction regarding location of future Fire Station 4

Clerk Cooperman noted that SFD has a desire for the 401 Jordan Road property as it allows better access out of the station for apparatus and will not require personnel to direct traffic and pedestrians while responding to incidents. The flat lot on the property also allows for a lower cost for construction. Mayor Jablow asked about the existing station and land and SFD plans for those areas. Chief Mezulis noted that SFD will not be able to relocate the tower and the necessary easement, he feels that it will not be a viable venue for a commercial space and his intent is to keep and maintain the property, renovating and updating the structures to provide workspace for support services such as IT, and maybe Community

Risk Reduction or other administrative services. Councilor Brian Fultz asked it if SFD intended to just purchase the Jordan Road property and not try to obtain additional areas to swap with City and Chief Mezulis stated that would be the cleanest option.

At this time, Vice-Mayor Holly Ploog spoke up and stated that she supported that option, having changed her mind since the last meeting. There was additional concern from Pete Furman about when the old station would be deactivated and when the re-purposing work would begin. Chief Mezulis stated that the reworking of the existing Station 4 could be done in conjunction with the build on Jordan Road. Other council members and the mayor offered their support for a straight sale of the Jordan Road property, with Councilor Furman being the dissenting voice, asking that further analysis be done on the Jordan Road property for other uses.

City Manager Spickard stated that there would need to be a public posting and public meeting and asked if the first meeting in February would be acceptable. Mayor Jablow stated that with Councilor Furman's concern, there were enough votes to move forward. It was decided that another joint meeting was not necessary, and the February 11 regular City Council meeting will include the public hearing.

Chief Mezulis stated that the move was progress and to contact him for anything necessary to support the public hearing. He feels confident that he can now act on behalf of the Governing Fire Board.

Chair McNeal thanks the Council for attending and supporting SFD and for the time and energy that this process has involved. She stated that she appreciated the attention to the need of the Fire District and thanked Chief Mezulis for his efforts in getting the City and SFD to this agreement.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McNeal adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Corrie Cooperman, Clerk of the Board