

SAFETY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Haraz N. Ghanbari. Committee members present were Deborah Born and Jim Matuszak. Also present was Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator and Director of Public Safety.

Chairman Ghanbari opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Erie Shores Council, Boy Scouts of America scouter Philip Ravas. Chairman Ghanbari noted his decision to begin each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by one of our Perrysburg Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts of America or youth to encourage more youth involvement in our local governance.

SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) GRANT APPLICATION

Fire Chief Rudy Ruiz requested permission to accept a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant in the amount of \$152,182 for SCBA gear. The City's share of the purchase will be ten percent or \$15,218. Ms. Kabat stated that the Fire Division applied for this grant in 2016. Chief Ruiz said that when FEMA makes grants available, they usually only have 30 days to respond, and it makes it difficult to come to the Committee before submitting the application. Ms. Kabat said that the grant and related purchase will be added to the budget amendment, if approved by Council. Mr. Ghanbari asked how many pieces of new equipment this includes. Chief Ruiz said that it is one for every seated position of all their apparatus and provides a personal mask for every firefighter including part-time and part-paid. Mr. Ghanbari asked if they are sharing these masks now and Chief Ruiz said they are not. Mr. Ghanbari asked about the life expectancy of the gear, and Chief Ruiz said that it is ten years. Mr. Ghanbari asked about any remaining life expectancy on our current equipment, and Chief Ruiz said there is some left. Mr. Matuszak asked if we are keeping the current equipment. Chief Ruiz said that if it is obsolete we will get rid of it, but we will keep the brackets and some other parts as replacement parts. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of accepting the FEMA grant.

PERMISSION TO PURCHASE SCBA's

Chief Ruiz said that the firefighters tried out several sets of SCBA gear and have chosen the brand that they prefer. He requested permission to purchase 27 SCB units at a cost of \$157,545 from Finley Fire Equipment Co., Inc. Chief Ruiz said that the prices will increase as of February 1. Mr. Matuszak asked if we can purchase these items before the budget amendment is passed or somehow otherwise lock in the current purchase price. Ms. Kabat said that we can ask them to hold the price. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of this purchase.

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG)/REGIONAL GRANT APPLICATION FOR TURNOUT GEAR

Chief Ruiz said that the AFG has started a new grant cycle and the deadline is February 2. He said that you can either write your own grant or go regionally. We do not have enough need for just us, so Chief Ruiz said that we will be applying for a grant in conjunction with Rossford, Perrysburg Township, and Lake Township. Our request will

be for ten to twelve sets of turnout gear. Each set cost approximately \$2,500 and our cost would be 10% of that. Chief Ruiz said that the goal is to have two sets of turnout gear for each firefighter. A complete set includes boots, pants, coat, suspenders, two hoods, helmet, and two sets of gloves. Mr. Ghanbari asked that if we were to expand the force within the next year if we can expand the grant. Chief Ruiz said that there is some flexibility. Mr. Matuszak asked if this grant application goes on with or without Perrysburg's participation. Chief Ruiz said that it does, but he hopes we are a part of it because he is writing the grant application. Mr. Matuszak asked if it is an all or nothing grant or if we could receive less than everything requested, and Ms. Kabat said that it is not all or nothing. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the grant application. Mr. Matuszak requested that this item also be placed in the budget amendment.

OHIO FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT GRANT

Chief Ruiz requested permission to apply for a grant for training. He said that the City has already paid for training for the three firefighters we hired last year, but we will ask to be reimbursed for those training costs. The grant allows \$1,500 for tuition and \$1,300 for housing, per firefighter. Mr. Matuszak asked if this is different than the grant we used to hire them and compensate them. Chief Ruiz said that it is different, and the grant we used to hire them was federal dollars. Mr. Ghanbari asked if the reimbursement would go back to the Fire Department budget or the City's General Operating Fund. Ms. Kabat said they go back into the general fund, though with additional actions from Council the funds could be returned to the Fire Department's budget. Mr. Ghanbari indicated anytime the Fire Department applies for a grant, he would like reimbursable funds returned directly to the Fire Department's budget. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the grant application for training from the Ohio Fire Marshal.

VEHICLE EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM GRANT FOR OLD FIRE STATION

Chief Ruiz requested permission to apply for a grant for a vehicle exhaust removal system for the current fire station. He explained that the new fire station will include additional mechanisms to assist in cancer prevention, such as the incorporation of transitioning areas known as a hot zone to warm zone to cold zone to prevent cross contamination, but the current fire station does not have such design. He said that the exhaust system they would like to install is a dual system with equipment on the apparatus and outside of the station. He said they have devices attached to the vehicles now, but they all failed inspection and it has been recommended to have both systems. Chairman Ghanbari asked if the devices have been repaired. Chief Ruiz said that they have been repaired and they are on schedule to be checked more often. Mr. Ghanbari asked what the annual cost is. Chief Ruiz said that he was not sure, but he would get that information for the Committee. Chairman Ghanbari stressed the importance of the health and wellbeing of our men and women in uniform. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval to apply for this grant.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed a recent incident involving a carbon monoxide leak in a residence. Chairman Ghanbari said that he reached out to Chief Ruiz about carbon monoxide detector grants, and one of the assistant chiefs is looking into it. The Committee discussed handing out carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms to residents and

other community outreach opportunities. Chief Ruiz said that even if they do a lift assist he has the responders check to see if they have a smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, space heater, or any trip hazards.

Ms. Kabat said that they are working on the presentation for the Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the new fire station.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Haraz N. Ghanbari, Chairman
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.