



CITY OF CRESCENT CITY

Mayor Jason Greenough
Council Member Beau Smith

Mayor Pro Tem Blake Inscore
Council Member Isaiah Wright

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL/MEASURE S OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
MEASURE S – POOL / FIRE DEPARTMENT
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

MONDAY

MARCH 29, 2021

5:30 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

Call to order Mayor Greenough called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Roll call Council Members present: Council Member Beau Smith, Council Member Isaiah Wright, Mayor Pro Tem Blake Inscore, and Mayor Jason Greenough

Oversight Board Members present: Board Member Cindy Cruse, Board Member Emery Mattz, Board Member Ernie Perry, and Chair Kelly Schellong

Oversight Board Member absent: Vice Chair Heidi Kime

Staff members present: City Manager Eric Wier, City Attorney Martha Rice, City Clerk/Administrative Analyst Robin Patch, Public Works Maintenance Manager Jason Wylie, Recreation and Events Coordinator Director Holly Wendt, Finance Director Linda Leaver, Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Human Resources Administrator Sunny Valero, and Police Chief Richard Griffin

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Greenough

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes

- *Recommendation: Approve the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes of the Measure S Oversight Committee/City Council.*

On a motion by Board Member Perry, seconded by Board Member Mattz and carried on a 4-0 polled vote with Vice-Chair Kime being absent, the Measure S Oversight Committee approved the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes of the Measure S Oversight Committee/City Council.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Inscore, seconded by Council Member Wright, and carried unanimously on a 4-0 polled vote, the City Council of the City of Crescent City approved the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes of the Measure S Oversight Committee/City Council.

PRESENTATION

2. Measure S – Fred Endert Municipal Pool/Crescent City Fire and Rescue

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Oversight Committee*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Oversight Committee discussion*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Take action as necessary and appropriate*

Fire Chief Gillespie gave a detailed report on Crescent City Fire and Rescue; there have been 1,300 calls for service per year, 19,500 population served (City 6,500), 28.4 sq. mile service area (with the District being 26 sq. miles, City 2.4 sq miles), with 20 active volunteers. The City stations are on I Street and on Cooper, the administrative offices are found on Washington Blvd; with an engine storage in the Bertsch Tract. He went over the different types of calls for service the Department handles on a typical year, the current operating combined (City/District) budget (total operating expenses \$875,243). Chair Schellong asked where the funds for the grants and contributions go; Chief Gillespie they are matching funds such as CalFire Grants who will match up to 50% for things like personal protective equipment. City Manager Wier stated that the net cost to the City for the CCFR expenditures is \$320k and went over the Fire Department Master Plan. The identified critical needs for the Department are staffing, volunteer support (training, career opportunities), apparatus replacement plan, and fiscal sustainability (District will deplete reserves by 2023). *Vice Chair Kime joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m.* City Manager Wier detailed each of the critical needs for CCFR and applauded Chief Gillespie for carrying the Department on since Chief Wakefield's passing and continuing to give impeccable dedication to ensure the safety of the citizens. Chief Gillespie went over the current organizational chart that shows what was current when the Master Plan was developed. He further explained what the proposed new organizational chart would look like and the schedule that would be given to the firefighters. It was also decided to develop a "sleeper program" that would provide volunteers a stipend to be on the apparatus, which would give a 24/7 crew at the station who can respond to any calls that come in. Chair Schellong asked for the qualifications to become a Captain; Chief Gillespie stated there would be a hiring process, job requirements for the position are being looked at now. Certifications, experience and time will be a part of the requirements. City Manager Wier went over how our volunteers have worked out how they can cover shifts, even with full time jobs. Chair Schellong if there is no funding to hire the 3 Captains, is there a backup plan? Chief Gillespie stated yes, the Master Plan outlines staffing. Chief Gillespie went into the equipment replacement schedule that showed the apparatuses the fire department has, how old they are and the cost to replace them along with when it should be expected to have them replaced. Chair Schellong asked what was currently being set aside for replacements; City Manager Wier stated that there has nothing for the last couple of years. He further reported to the Board and Council the available revenue – the City passed Measure S on November 3, 2020, 25% of Measure S = \$325k. The District's benefit assessment failed and the 2006 Assessment sunsets in 2021. Without any additional funding, the District only has two years of reserve left to operate. There will be another assessment sought after in Spring of this year. City Manager Wier explained what the next steps were for the fire department; there is an opportunity to address City-funded one-time needs such as a large diameter fire hose (\$30k), minor City facility upgrades (\$10k), volunteer recruitment and retention consultation (\$15k), and a larger deposit in apparatus/equipment reserve (\$38k annually). Chair Schellong asked when the last time they surveyed the volunteers to see what would make them want to respond to calls; Chief Gillespie stated this is an ongoing process to see what motivates people. Council Member Smith stated that the College of the Redwoods Fire Academy is what helped him to become a firefighter and an incentive for him. Mayor Greenough asked what could be done to help the fire department to recruit volunteers; Chief Gillespie said to push CR to partner to bring training opportunities here instead of having to go to Eureka. In the

interest of time, City Manager suggested having a separate meeting to discuss the pool so the presentation is not rushed. City Manager Wier suggested having the Pool meeting on Thursday, April 1st. The Board and Council were at odds to availability for a meeting on the 1st. Chair Schellong stated that perhaps April 12th is too soon to make decisions. The Board and Council were in consensus to have the Pool meeting on April 12th. The Board was in consensus to move the decision meeting a week after the 12th. Board Member Perry stated that he knew Chief Wakefield personally, and staffing is a huge issue that needs to be addressed for the health and betterment of our firefighters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Measure S Oversight Committee and City Council, Mayor Greenough adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m. to the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Crescent City scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom, Crescent City, CA 95531.

ATTEST:



Robin Patch
City Clerk/Administrative Analyst