

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING  
PASO ROBLES CITY COUNCIL  
Emergency Services Workshop**

**Wednesday, November 14, 2001 7:30 PM**

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**CALL TO ORDER** – Library/City Hall Conference Center

The City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, meeting in regular session at 7:30 PM on the above date in the Library/City Hall Conference Center, was called to order by Mayor Frank Mecham.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL** Councilmembers George Finigan, Gary Nemeth, Duane Picanco and Mayor Frank Mecham. Absent: Councilmember Jim Heggarty.

**1. Special Delivery and Funding Options for Fire & Life Safety Services**

D. Hamp, Chief of Emergency Services / D. Cassidy, Chief of Police

Hold a workshop to solicit public input on various options to meet the community's emergency service demands.

Emergency Services Chief of Doug Hamp discussed the findings of the September 2000 Growth Management Plan for Emergency Services and the four previous meetings regarding funding options, including the original challenge of \$2.2 million to enact upgrades recommended in the Emergency Services Growth Management Plan. Options discussed earlier included a utility tax, long-term implementation of General Fund monies, or a special tax based on parcel/land usage and number of responses.

Chief Hamp explained that in 2001 the City Council authorized the implementation of paramedic services, the hiring of 5 firefighters and staffing Fire Station 2 on a full-time basis to improve services to the community, especially on the east side of town.

It was shown that the absorption of 5 firefighter positions into the General Fund had significantly reduced the overall funding challenge needed to improve department response times, staffing and operations. The new target amount is \$1,047,785, which represents a 49 percent reduction from the original \$2.2 million.

Various options were explored to meet the community's emergency service demands, including:

- Enhancing the existing Paso Robles system by adding additional personnel.
- Implementing service consolidations or cooperative agreements with another municipality.
- Contracting for services with the California Department of Forestry.
- Contracting for partial services (medical only) with a private ambulance company.
- Modifying the City's current service delivery system, i.e., increasing total work hours per shift.

Funding future operations with one or more of the following alternatives was explored:

- Implementing recommended staffing over the long-term with City general funds.
- Seeking voter approval for a special tax fee based on land uses/service demands to more expeditiously implement recommended staffing.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. Speaking from the public were Rich Giubbini, Kathy Barnett, resident at 266 Ginger Lane, Dale Gustin, Gary Fowler, Sherry Nelson, Don Hirt, Bruce White, Dan Turner, Jeff Zimmerman, resident at 1776 Miller Court, Fred Rogers and Bob Treece.

After receiving public testimony and further discussion, Councilmember Finigan, seconded by Councilmember Nemeth, moved to direct staff to come back to the next Council meeting with a report projecting limited-term parcel tax ballot initiative figures with declining balances for the November 2002 election.

Ayes: Finigan, Mecham, Nemeth  
Noes: Picanco  
Absent: Heggarty  
Abstain: None

*Council adjourned from regular session at 10:36 PM by unanimous agreement.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** to THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2001, 7:30 PM AT THE LIBRARY/CITY HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET

Submitted by:

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Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk  
Approved: January 3, 2002