

**City of Menifee Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2010**

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Chairman John Denver called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were: Chairman John Denver, Committee Member Scott Mann, Interim City Manager Steve Harding, City Attorney Karen Feld, City Clerk Kathy Bennett, Community Development Director Carmen Cave, Police Captain James McElvain, Fire Battalion Chief Jorge Rodriguez, and five members of the public.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of Public Safety Committee Meeting of July 13, 2010

The minutes were approved by the committee for the July 13, 2010 meeting.

4. Update on Sun City Fire Station Update

Battalion Chief Jorge Rodriguez reported that several locations are being considered at this time but no final decisions have been made at this time. The DIF funds are earmarked. It was determined that the gas station in Sun City that was originally considered is now not considered feasible due to environmental issues. The location where the current station is located is not sufficient for a rebuilt. This item will return when there are further updates.

Committee Member Mann asked how the department would respond during the construction period while the station is being built. Chief Rodriguez noted that the transfer of equipment and personnel will not take place until the station is complete so they will respond out of the same station for that time period. Committee Member Mann also noted that he is not in favor of the station closing in Quail Valley. Chief Rodriguez stated there is no discussion regarding closing the Quail Valley station. He noted that, in fact, there are two locations that might be for future fire stations in Menifee, but Quail Valley will not lose fire service. Councilmember Mann noted that he is not in favor of relocating the QV Fire Station. Chief Rodriguez stated that response times are the overriding factor and those times will not suffer from any decision made. City Manager Harding noted that the General Plan and the City's population will all be studied by the Fire Department to make the appropriate analyses for future fire stations.

5. Update on Crime Watch in Menifee

Leah McGee stated that she represents Quail Valley Crime Watch and that she asked the new deputies in the area to check in with them on Wednesdays so they were aware of anything going on in the area and so that they could be helpful or not intercede where they should not be. The deputies are not checking in at all with Crime Watch.

Earl McGee said they only hope to keep informed so they are helpful and can help “watch the backs” of the deputies, but the communication is not happening and he feels it is a change of attitude in the department and wonders what caused the overall change. He gave an example of an accident scene where he was not only not supported by the deputy in a decision he had to make, but in fact, was asked to leave the area. Captain McElvain agreed to address the issues with the McGees. He also noted that a presentation regarding the crime watch program in Menifee as a whole is being compiled for a future report. The City Manager suggested a meeting of the Captain and police representatives, the McGees and Committee members to discuss these issues. Chairman Denver suggested it be Committee member Mann who stated this could be handled by staff first. Following that meeting if there are further concerns he would like to be informed.

Tom Hall of Sun City Crime watch noted that they have a car acquired in July, and were trying to get it prepared and ready by paint, etc, for the National Night Out, however there was no budget to put the light bar on and put the radio in the car, a total of about \$1,000. The City Manager noted there was no budget for this but agreed to discuss this to see if there were options.

Committee Member Mann noted this is an area where recommendations could be made by the staff at mid-year budget for crime watch and the plans for them and the budget implications. The City Manager agreed to return the item to Council with recommendations at mid-year budget for fund allocations.

6. Update on Police Sub-station facility at Mt. San Jacinto Community College

Captain McElvain stated that, after the last meeting, he understood that this issue was not to be considered at this time, as the staff or an appropriate group was to consider the future of law enforcement in the City, in total, including not only location of stations, etc., encompassing major issues including how law enforcement would be provided to the City as a whole, and that he and his staff were to begin putting together a presentation and study on crime watch in Menifee, which is being done at this time for a future presentation.

Councilmember Mann noted this request came from last year at a Council meeting, where he asked the City Manager to begin a comprehensive study on law enforcement in Menifee and all the options available including a City police department, a JPA type of service where multiple agencies share law enforcement, or staying with the current contract or a different contract with the Sheriff Department. He noted that study was not begun that he was aware of due to the changes of management in City Hall, and therefore it might be prudent to wait until the new, permanent City Manager is in place.

Captain McElvain stated that if the committee is interested in further consideration of just this location at this time, he would need a great deal of information to begin that study, including what level of service is requested from this station. He asked if it would include just a store front for report writing, an 8 – 5 operation five days a week, as opposed to full service, or just certain services such as available, and if so, which services? With that

detailed direction costs can be gathered on a comprehensive report, and will require a great deal of staff research.

Chairman Denver stated that he agrees with Committee member Mann that this should be postponed for a decision until there is a new, permanent City Manager in place at City Hall. He noted he hoped to have more information since it could involve cost savings to the City to have this station in place.

Captain McElvain noted that the City would probably not experience cost savings having a store front in place. He also noted that a deputy can already come to City Hall to have a report taken with no store front in place, by using the phone connecting them directly to the dispatch center.

Committee Member Mann said he felt it would be good to add this to the long-range plan of public safety options and budget relating to that. The City Manager noted that the entire analysis is probably needed to look at the possibility of a store front or any other service delivery options with the larger picture of law enforcement in total for the City.

Chairman Denver and Committee Member Mann agreed that the issue should be brought up with the first meeting of the committee when the new City Manager is aboard, to review the long range plans for law enforcement in the City of Menifee including delivery of service and what facilities should be considered.

7. Update on Jessica's Law and possible ordinance to strengthen

City Attorney Feld summarized what Jessica's law covers and the fact that the City had different ways to tighten that regulation including adding types of facilities and areas that can be considered child safety zones to the amount of feet allowed from the current child safety zones (schools and parks currently in the law). She went over the restrictions, etc.

Tom Thurman of Sun City Civic Association noted that they are interested in seeing the City adopt regulations to register care givers allowing for control of possible sex offenders in that profession. The association recently adopted a resolution asking the City to regulate this. He noted this resolution would be read before the Council at the next meeting on October 5, 2010 and he would also tell the Council that the Committee is considering this information and following through as requested for possible Council action in the future.

Chairman Denver asked the City Manager and City Attorney to do an analysis of this issue and return it to them for study before the next meeting, and also consider the law modifications in relation to the County's new Ordinance No. 902. He also asked to see the consequence of expanding zones in Jessica's law as opposed to expanding the number of places allowed to be regulated by the law.

8. Code Enforcement Updates

Director Cave reported on the weed abatement process on unimproved lots. She noted that where the City has to abate the weeds and bill the owner, the City's contractor is also clearing trash off the lots and that this helps the general clean up of the area.

Councilmember Mann noted there have not been recent complaints about Wilderness Lakes and the odor reported. Director Cave noted the odor has been identified from starting at a dairy area and have been less of a problem at this time.

9. Committee Members Comments

None.

10. City Manager Comments

None.

11. Adjournment

Chairman Denver adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Kathy Bennett, City Clerk