



Agenda

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 4:00 PM
City Council Chambers
200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of December 12, 2006 minutes
4. Old business:
 NONE
5. New business:
 - A. Snow Removal Procedures, Robert Romero, Public Works Department Director
 - B. Update from affected City of Santa Fe departments regarding the recent snow storms
 - C. Proposed resolution amending the Santa Fe Municipal Airport Master Plan to incorporate a new combined training facility for the City of Santa Fe Police and Fire Departments, including a secure vehicle impound yard, Councilor Rebecca Wurzburger
6. Matters from Police Chief Eric Johnson
7. Matters from Fire Chief Chris Rivera
8. Matters from Municipal Court
9. Matters from Committee Members
10. Communications from the Floor
11. Adjournment

For information regarding the agenda, you can call Shannon Cantu at 955-5010. Interpreter for the hearing impaired is available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice. Please call 955-6521.

MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Santa Fe, New Mexico

January 16, 2007

A scheduled meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Safety Committee was called to order by Councilor Karen Heldmeyer on this date at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll Call Indicated the Presence of a quorum as follows:

Councilor Dr. Karen Heldmeyer, Chair
Mr. Herb Harris, Vice-Chair
Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis
Mr. Henry Valdez
Mr. Michael Bowen
Mr. Pete Mizrahi

Member(s) Excused:

Dr. Mike Mier
Mr. Frank Stuto
Mr. Don Moya

Staff Present:

Deputy Chief Randy Neumann, Santa Fe Fire Department
Chief Eric Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department
Shannon Cantu, Santa Fe Police Department
Michelle Babcock, Santa Fe Police Department
Sgt. Marvin Paulk, Santa Fe Police Department

Others Present:

Galen Buller, Acting City Manager, City of Santa Fe
Robert Romero, Director, Public Works Department
Laura Banish, Public Information Officer, City of Santa Fe
Sebastian Gurule, Consultant Services Department, City of Santa Fe
Martin Vigil, Director, Emergency Operations Center
Judge Ann Yalman, Municipal Court, City of Santa Fe
Ed Brown, President, Nava Ade Neighborhood Association
Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer

Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Cantu explained that there is a correction in the date of this meeting's agenda that is included in the committee members' packets to read "January 16, 2007," instead of "January 16, 2006."

Mr. Bowen moved for approval of the agenda as amended. Vice-Chair Harris seconded the motion. Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Bowen moved for approval of the December 12, 2006 minutes. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Snow Removal Procedures- Robert Romero, Public Works Department Director Acting City Manager Galen Buller acknowledged that numerous lessons were learned from the recent snowstorm that hit Santa Fe. He added that he and the city staff members who were present at this meeting would discuss what they learned during the storm, and how those lessons can be applied in the future.

Robert Romero explained that currently there are 26 employees with Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs). These employees are split up into three 8-hour shifts to handle around the clock coverage duties.

There are six dump trucks available with plows and spreaders for paved street snow/ice control. There are three motor graders for unpaved street snow/ice control and for ice removal on primarily downtown streets. One loader is available for loading a salt/cinder mixture and for loading ice during removal projects. Three additional tandem axle dump trucks are available for hauling ice during removal projects.

Mr. Romero explained that with the last winter storm, city staff did get to most of the priority streets. He added that there was an issue on St. Francis Drive where the DOT was not able to address the problems on St. Francis Drive.

Major city streets were cleared.

Significant problems arose with streets on the north and east sides of the city. Streets on the southern and western parts of town had problems because of the lack of sunlight those streets receive.

Mr. Romero explained that snow removal in the downtown areas is done at night, from midnight until 8 a.m., when there is minimal traffic on the roads.

City staff attempted to clear the school zones of snow while the schools were not in session. Staff worked to clear school zones in the northeast areas of the city last week, including Acequia Madre Elementary and Wood Gormley Elementary.

Equipment maintenance on the snowplows began today.

Mr. Romero explained that they would be clearing streets in the South Capitol area this week once the weather warms up.

Mr. Romero explained that when the most recent winter storm hit Santa Fe, city workers were dispatched on Sunday morning at 7 a.m.

Mr. Romero explained, in the future, street plows would work on the “priority streets.” Workers from the parks division will be moved into the more “critical areas” to clear the snow and ice.

Sebastian Gurule, from the Constituent Services Department, explained that their department has organized a call center that would be activated by the City Manager in the event of an emergency, or in situations that would generate a “high volume of phone calls.”

The main focus of the call center is to “ensure effective and efficient customer service by ensuring that phone calls are being answered and returned.”

There is a maximum staffing level of nine staff members at the call center to respond to calls during these types of emergency and high call volume situations.

Mr. Gurule explained that in the event of an emergency, the City Manager would activate the call center, and based on the type of situation that the city is dealing with, the number of staff members needed to receive phone calls would then be determined.

The IT Department has worked with the call center to set up a call transfer program, where calls can be transferred to the center. Callers waiting for their call to be received will hear automated announcements with statistical and weather information.

Mr. Gurule explained that a list has been compiled of those people interested in being involved in a Neighborhood Volunteer Corp.

Chair Heldmeyer asked Mr. Gurule if there would be “one central” phone number for residents to contact the call center. Mr. Gurule explained that the call center is currently set up with the Snow Removal Hotline phone number, 955-2411. He added that they are working with the IT Department to identify a specific number that the call center can activate in the “event of all emergencies.”

Laura Banish explained that she has researched other cities, nationwide, that deal with snowstorms on a more regular basis to see what kind of information those cities have available with regard to weather procedures.

Ms. Banish explained that a priority street map has been posted on the city’s website, along with a list of the city’s priority streets.

Ms. Banish explained that the staff is putting together a snow control FAQ with relevant contact numbers along with a list of the city's procedures that would be available online year-round. In addition, she explained that they are proposing to send out letters to residents in early November stating what residents should expect in the event of any incoming snowstorms.

Mr. Gurule explained that he is working with Becky Martinez from the RECC "exploring another avenue" with an automated system that would notify residents in specific neighborhoods of delays in trash pick-ups.

Mr. Gurule explained that he is working with Joe Abeyta, the multi-media productions supervisor, to develop information that could be produced and presented on the city government television channel.

Mr. Gurule explained that they are also looking into the cost of having an independent city government channel, other than the one channel operated through SFCC.

Martin Vigil, Director of Emergency Operations Management, explained that the snowstorm affected much of Northeast New Mexico.

Mr. Vigil explained that there was a call increase from Thursday, December 28th through Friday, the 29th. The surge in calls came in primarily from Santa Fe County.

During that time, day-to-day 911 responses continued in a "challenged manner" with the cooperation of the Santa Fe Police Department.

There was a major call surge on New Year's Day. The Emergency Operations Center was activated at that time. The EOC handled 750 calls from January 1st until the Center was terminated last Friday, January 12th. The calls were prioritized, with 911 calls being held as Priority 1. Priority 2 calls dealt with "life safety issues." Animal care related calls were held as Priority 3. Priority 4 calls dealt with snow removal.

Mr. Vigil explained that one positive result of the storm response effort was how efficiently the City and the County worked together.

Mr. Vigil explained that the day before the storm hit, he contacted the City's Situational Analysis Team, and St. Vincent's Hospital. In addition, Mr. Vigil was in contact with the National Weather Service and the State Emergency Management Office. The Red Cross was already prepared with interstate shelters needs. The Volunteer Organization for Active Disasters was on stand-by to assist the Red Cross, if needed as well.

Many "snow cat" operations proceeded through midnight on the night the storm hit. There were nine "snow cat" rescues logged within that time frame.

Mr. Vigil explained that numerous city residents called into the center to offer their help as well.

Mr. Vigil explained that those individuals working at the EOC must have the Incident Command Training. He explained that each of the departments should take part in this training as well. He added, "All emergencies are to be handled using the National Incident Management System."

Mr. Vigil explained that another issue that needs to be looked at is the ability to cache emergency supplies such as food and water. He explained that they have not yet been able to cache these supplies this because of the limitation in the federal funding for these uses.

Mr. Vigil explained that they are also looking at supplementing the law enforcement departments with more four-wheel drive vehicles, including an additional "snow cat" vehicle, as well as some "6x6 military type vehicles" that could be used to transport people out of affected areas.

Mr. Buller thanked the city departments that were involved with the winter storm efforts.

Ed Brown, President of the Nava Adé Homeowner's Association, asked the committee to revise the current plan and have community input, as well as identifying those streets within the city that should be plowed. Mr. Brown explained that the Nava De Homeowner's Association would be "more than happy to work with the City" with this process.

Mr. Valdez asked Mr. Romero if there is any city ordinance requiring snow removal from city streets. Mr. Romero explained that there is an ordinance requiring property owners to clear the sidewalks in front of their properties. He added that the City's Parks crews clear the areas around the city-owned facilities, as well as the Plaza and the City Park areas. Community Services is responsible for clearing areas around the City's recreational facilities and the senior facilities.

Mr. Valdez asked what the enforcement process would be. Mr. Romero explained that it would be code enforcement.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked if there were an announcement regarding this requirement that could be put out to city residents through the Public Information Office. Ms. Banish explained that an announcement was included as part of the FAQ sent out to residents.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that the approach by both the city and property owners is to remove the snow before it becomes ice. She added that it should be "a multi-pronged" approach.

Mr. Valdez felt that if there is an ordinance requiring snow removal, then those individuals who don't comply with the requirements should be cited. He explained that people need to understand the dangers that result from those un-cleared sidewalks.

Chair Heldmeyer brought up the issue of whether the city should start “red-tagging” those people who have not removed the ice from their sidewalks.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked for more specifics regarding the plan to add additional snow plows to the street clearing effort. Mr. Romero explained that two dump trucks with plows were added to the street clearing effort.

There were over 500 complaints reported.

Twenty new plows have been ordered and will be installed on the trucks operated by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Romero explained that in the past, the street crews have had to assist the Fire Department in clearing the area around the fire stations. However, the Fire Department now is equipped with an additional plow.

Mr. Mizrahi felt that with these types of storms situations, everyone sees their street as a “priority street.” Mr. Romero explained that the street crews prioritized those calls that came in.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked what streets had the most reported call complaints. Mr. Romero explained that Acequia Madre was one of the streets that “lead the pack,” as well as many of the streets on the east side of the city.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that the “commuter streets,” such as Don Diego, Galisteo Street, and Don Gaspar are well-traveled streets, but were not listed as priority streets, in terms of the top three priority streets. Mr. Romero acknowledged that some of the neighborhood streets in those areas were “hit hard” with 8 to 12 inches of ice that still remains on those streets.

Mr. Bowen thanked all of the emergency crew workers for their efforts. He explained that one of the biggest issues was the public statement released by the city stating that the crews were clearing the priority streets first, and those neighborhoods that “complained second.” He felt that the city needs to be sensitive when issuing public statements regarding these decisions.

Mr. Romero explained that the normal uniform procedure is to have the priority streets cleared first. He acknowledged that with the new equipment that the Public Works Department will be receiving, it would be possible to clear some of the major neighborhood streets earlier.

Chair Heldmeyer thanked city staff for their “great response.” She hoped that in the future the response would be more organized. She acknowledged that the first priorities would always be clearing the emergency routes and the main streets. However, in addition to the emergency routes and main streets, there are additional streets, not included in the priority list, that would need to be added. These additional streets would

include those in front of schools, in front of St. Vincent's Hospital, and around those places that "draw a lot of people." Attention also needs to be paid to those streets around the commercial areas as well.

Mr. Romero commended Mayor Coss who worked hard to get the city operating again.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that the city departments need to communicate with each other and with Santa Fe residents as well.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that she heard the most complaints in the downtown neighborhoods where there was some uncertainty of the residents as to when the problems would be dealt with.

Chair Heldmeyer suggested amending the agenda to allow Judge Yalman to present any matters from the Municipal Court before the committee proceeds with Item C.

Mr. Bowen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion. Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

Matters From the Municipal Court:

Judge Yalman explained that the case management system has been put into place and the staff has been trained with system. The system will provide the court with accurate statistics to provide the public with. All of the old cases are currently being manually installed into the system.

One aspect of the process that will be done this coming summer is the data entry for citations. The court is working on the "import, export" feature of the system as well.

C. A Resolution Amending the Santa Fe Municipal Airport Master Plan to Incorporate a New Combined Training Facility For the City of Santa Fe Police and Fire Departments, Including A Secure Vehicle Impound Yard

Chip Lilienthal explained that this amendment is part of a resolution that was approved on July 10, 2002 as part of the Master Plan for the Santa Fe Municipal Airport. Mr. Lilienthal explained that the city is hoping to provide a police and fire training facility and an impound yard on the airport property. The amended resolution will be submitted to the FAAA. Construction for the training facility cannot begin without FAAA approval. (A Resolution Amending the Santa Fe Municipal Airport Master Plan to Incorporate a New Combined Training Facility for the City of Santa Fe Police and Fire Departments, Including a Secure Vehicle Impound Yard incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit "A")

Chief Johnson explained that the concept for the training facility came about several years ago to address the training needs for the city police and fire departments. He added that he and Chief Rivera are hoping to cut the current training costs by bringing classes into this facility to address certification issues.

He explained that one of the first phase of this plan in March or April, will be to put in place a new impound yard as an “evidence processing facility” to store vehicles in a three-bay garage. The groundbreaking will begin soon.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the training facility would include a firing range. Chief Johnson explained that the facility would include a firing range. Chair Heldmeyer asked if the FAAA was agreeable to the proposed location of the firing range. Chief Johnson explained that it this is still in the works.

Jim Montman, the Airport Manager, explained that the reason for the resolution is because the airport receives federal grants. Part of the grant assurances is that the airport does everything it can to remain self-sufficient. Therefore, any development completed at the airport that doesn't directly benefit the airport, has revenues that will come back to the airport, or the property is bought outright, and the revenues of the property purchase then come back to the airport. The FAAA does this approval through an airport layout plan.

The FAAA has two major concerns with any development done on an airport that are not aviation related. The first concern is to make sure the airport retain all the revenues that come from the development of the training facility. This will be done through a lease agreement for the impound yard and the training facility. Any revenue generated from these will go directly into the general airport fund. The second major concern is safety. The process for addressing these concerns will be done through the airport layout plan.

Dr. Owen-Lewis asked was concerns have been voiced by the FAAA. Mr. Montman explained that the main concern is about the “golden beebie” theory, where one bullet escapes from the firing range and there happens to be a plane in that general area that may be at risk for getting hit. He added that there will be “a lot of discussion” about this issue, and explained that there has been a firing range out at the airport for roughly 30 years.

Mr. Bowen moved to recommend approval the proposed resolution amending the Santa Fe Municipal Airport Master Plan. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Matters From Police Chief Johnson:

Chief Johnson explained that the Police Department saw the need to purchase more four-wheel drive vehicles as a result of the snowstorm.

There was no substantial increase in automobile accidents between December 29, 2005 through January 3, 2006, and the same time period for 2006-2007. The total number of accidents was 11.

Officer Marvin Paulk discussed briefly the problems that the Santa Fe Police Department has had with the recruiting efforts of qualified applicants and how these problems compare to those problems experienced nationwide.

Officer Paulk explained that recruiting pool numbers have shrunk is because the economy is good nationwide. Those individuals coming out of high school who do not have jobs are finding jobs primarily in the military that offer good incentives for applicants.

The hiring process nationwide needs to be updated. The department is thorough with the application and selection process.

In April 2006, the Santa Fe Police Department tested 25 applicants. However, of those applicants, only one individual was hired.

Many of the individuals that qualify for the shorter certification process are lost in the background check process.

The Police Department offers both signing bonuses and healthcare benefit incentives for those individuals who qualify. Officer Paulk explained that one main reason that the Police Department receives so many lateral transfer officers is the healthcare benefits that the Department provides.

Last fiscal year, the Police Department hired approximately nine people. However, the Department also retired 8 positions.

With the recruiting budget that was approved by the City Council totaling approximately \$113,000, the Police Department has hired a marketing firm to help with attracting new applicants to the Santa Fe area.

Marketing efforts will target television and radio commercials, as well as print advertisement.

Vice-Chair Harris asked what particular areas the Police Department were targeting. Officer Paulk explained that the Department is targeting the age group of 20 years old and up. They also target minorities groups to have diversity recruitment as well.

The Police Department is also working to have community leaders become recruiters for the Department.

Chair Heldmeyer asked about targeting online sites such as Facebook and Myspace. Officer Paulk explained that the Department has considered that option, but have not done much investigation into that possibility. He added that Police Department marketing ads appear free websites that are primarily law enforcement related.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the Police Department was still conducting psychological testing as well. Officer Paulk explained that the Department was conducting psychological testing of applicants and that the testing was part of the state mandate.

Chief Johnson commended Officer Paulk for his work with the recruitment process.

Matters From Deputy Fire Chief Neumann:

Deputy Chief Neumann explained that the moisture that would produce the spring run-off would reduce the risk of forest fires.

The Fire Department did respond to a patient call and were stranded waiting for assistance for two hours during the snowstorm. The patient, who was treated, wrote a letter to the editor complimenting the Fire Department on their services.

The Fire Department has purchased two plows for snow clearing at the Department facilities. One goal is to use these plows to aide units responding to calls in areas that may still be inaccessible due to snow.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that there were people with non-critical medical needs, such as scheduled surgeries. These individuals were given a higher priority, and had their streets plowed or were given rides to the hospital by someone with a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Matters from Committee:

Mr. Mizrahi thanked Deputy Police Chief Stan Mascareñas, who is retiring at the end of January, for his 20-plus years of service with the Santa Fe Police Department.

Chief Johnson explained that Deputy Chief Mascareñas will be retiring at the end of the month, as well as Sgt. Joseph Carlton. Chief Johnson thanked Shannon Cantu for her work with the Police Department as well.

Communications From The Floor:

None

Adjournment:

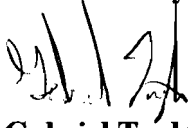
Its business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Approved by



Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Chair

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Taylor', written over a horizontal line.

Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer