

City of DeBary
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Wednesday
July 22, 2009
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16 Colomba Road
DeBary, Florida 32713

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Mayor Garcia called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Garcia, Vice Mayor Erickson, Council Member Van Conoley, Council Member Jack Lenzen, and Council Member Leonard Marks

Others Present: Acting City Manager Anthony Gonzalez and City Clerk Stacy Tebo

III. Discussion of Fire Services with the City of Orange City (6:00)

Orange City Interim City Manager Chester Murray addressed the Council and said that their fire Department has been in existence since 1890. Mr. Murray stated that the only fixed cost is personnel, and they would hire ten people if they were awarded the contract with DeBary. He added that they also utilize fully trained and certified volunteer firefighters to keep costs within reason.

Mr. Murray explained that Orange City would charge a fifteen percent administrative fee for overall management of the contract. He noted that they have available in-house certified mechanics, backup engines if needed, and spare rescue units. He said that they would refund any moneys budgeted that are not utilized.

Mr. Murray stated that Orange City is requesting a six-year commitment, but would prefer a ten-year contract; that the contract would be renewed annually; that Orange City recommends ALS (Advanced Life Support) service; and that they utilize paramedics on every unit.

Mr. Murray stressed that DeBary volunteer firefighters would be considered to be included in the program as a top priority, and they would train with Orange City. He estimated that it would take a maximum of thirty days to implement their services, and a fire engine could be provided within 120 days.

Mr. Murray explained the staffing and said there would be three Fire Lieutenant positions, with one for each shift at a total cost of \$110,000. He added that the Fire Chief's salary is currently approximately \$60,000.

Mr. Murray entertained questions from the City Council members.

IV. Discussion of Fire Services with the City of Deltona (7:30)

Robert Staples, Fire Chief of Deltona, gave the Council background information on the Deltona Fire Department and noted they have been in operation since 1964. He stated that they have an enhanced level of staffing; that they have their own communications center, and there is an instantaneous transfer once they identify the call; and that he recommends a rescue company and an engine company for DeBary.

Chief Staples stated that in 1995, when Deltona became a city, fire services became the first employees of the City; that they have a total staff of 95 people, including administrative personnel; that they have a total of six units and four engine companies; and that he recommends a second back-up fire station for DeBary.

Chief Staples said that Deltona is a larger organization than Orange City and can provide a higher level of service; that they could respond to all hazards; that they are professional firefighters, with 23 personnel scheduled for each shift; that they have four engines, one ladder and one rescue; that they have one of two rescue teams in Volusia County; that they have a special ops unit; that they have in-house communications with full-time dedicated personnel; that they provide assistance with emergency management; and that they have community education programs and an EMS bike team for special events.

Chief Staples said that Deltona would prefer a five-year contract, at a minimum, because it would allow for the planning and purchasing of equipment. He added that the contract could contain an opt-out clause to be renewed yearly by both cities. He spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of both purchasing and leasing equipment. He recommended a cash purchase for the fire truck.

Chief Staples said that DeBary volunteers would be considered for employment if they possess the minimum requirements. He stated that they would need a ninety-day transition period to be up and running.

Chief Staples entertained questions from the City Council members.

There was Council discussion regarding the length of the contract, as well as cost versus the level of service for ALS (Advanced Life Support) and BLS (Basic Life Support).

Chief Staples discussed Deltona's fire department budget of \$9.2 million. He noted that the personnel budget alone is about \$8.2 or \$8.4 million. He said that their administrative fee would be fifteen percent, but it is negotiable.

V. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

**APPROVED
CITY OF DeBARY
CITY COUNCIL**

Bob Garcia, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacy Tebo, City Clerk

