



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS AGENDA

**Prince George's County Fire Chief/Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department
Municipal Building, Council Chambers
25 Crescent Road
Monday, August 26, 2019
8:00 PM**

Work Session Packet - *Agenda*

- *Introductions*
- *Council Discussion*
- *Questions and Answers*
- *Other Items*

Prince George's County Fire Chief/Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department
[WS181015.pdf](#)

City Council Work Sessions Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: August 26, 2019

Submitted by: Bonita Anderson

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Meeting Minutes

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Prince George's County Fire Chief/Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[WS181015.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, October 15, 2018, for the purpose of meeting with the Prince George's County Fire Department.

Mr. Byrd started the meeting at 8:08 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

Councilmembers present were: Colin A. Byrd, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens and Rodney M. Roberts. Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Leta M. Mach and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan were on travel.

Staff members present were: City Manager Nicole Ard and City Clerk Bonita Anderson.

Also present were: Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale, Assistant Fire Chief Brian Frankel of the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Chief Thomas Ray and Assistant Chief Greg Gigliotti of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD), Melissa Sites, Greenbelt News Review, members of the Branchville Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD), Nicole Williams, Bill Orleans and others.

Prince George's County Fire Department

Mr. Byrd began the meeting with introductions from all who were in attendance. Ms. Pope asked for an update on the Prince George's County Fire Department. Chief Barksdale noted that the department is currently the largest department with career and volunteer firefighters combined in the country and the 16th busiest with about 140,546 calls a year the majority is EMS related. He also noted that there are 987 career staff and about 1,000 certified volunteers that can respond to calls. Chief Barksdale noted that all ambulances are staffed with two dedicated personnel.

Mr. Putens inquired about the recruitment timeframe for career firefighters. Chief Barksdale indicated that the timeframe for the recruiting school is 28 weeks and that they were recently authorized to hire 60 individuals to fill vacancies. He also indicated that there is a six-month hiring process.

Mr. Roberts inquired about the Four Cities Coalition letter addressed to the Fire Chief. Chief Barksdale indicated that Chief Frankel will provide Council with the statistical data. Mr. Roberts also inquired about the number of stations that don't have paid personnel. Chief Barksdale replied that there are 8 out of 45 stations which are 100% volunteer. He listed 5 out of the 8 stations, Seat Pleasant Station 8, West Landover Hills Station 28, Riverdale Heights Station 13, Riverdale Station 7, and Richie Station 37. Mr. Roberts inquired about plans to provide career personnel for the other stations such as Branchville Station. Chief Barksdale indicated that their process consists of reviewing the station locations and response times and that currently there is no demand for career personnel at the Branchville Station.

Chief Gigliotti provided an overview of his concerns with the lack of EMS services and the assistance that the City provides. He also expressed his concerns regarding the ongoing challenges of providing an acceptable level of service as a station only staffed by volunteers.

Chief Barksdale indicated Chief Frankel will provide him with the data requested and that there's a first come first serve call response. He also noted that it would require a career Fire Fighter to satisfy the staffing.

Ms. Pope inquired about an issue that arouses at the Greenbelt Labor Day festival when the Fire Marshal inspected the funnel cake booth set up. Ms. Williams noted that the funnel cake vendor had some concerns about the different setup the Fire Marshal provided and inquired about the citation number to be in compliance in the future. Chief Barksdale indicated that there was no change with the code and that the inspector who was enforcing the code was different. Chief Jim Riley is willing to work with the Greenbelt Labor Day committee to work out the specifics.

On behalf of Ms. Davis via proxy, Mr. Byrd inquired about the ambulance fees and billing. Chief Ray indicated that the numbers were down since the County taken over the billing and that he notice improvements with the system. Mr. Byrd inquired about capital funding for the City's firehouse. GVFD representatives noted that the roof repair is in progress.

Mr. Putens inquired about funding in the County's budget for the fire station and relocating the station in the future. Chief Barksdale noted that they don't know when that will be but not within the next five years.

On behalf of Mayor Jordan via proxy, Mr. Byrd inquired about EMS response to issues regarding administering NARCAN for Opioid overdoses in the County. Chief Frankel reported that the opioid overdoses have decreased in the County to an average of administering two NARCAN daily by the department. He also reported that opioids are not an issue in the County and that the County Fire Department is working closely with the Health Department on the drugs issues.

Mr. Orleans expressed his concerns about the volunteer vs. career firefighters and the needs of the County Fire Department. Council along with the Fire Chief agreed that they will continue their communication and dialogue with each other.

Mr. Roberts expressed his concerns about the development of a wood stick building structures which are not safe and a fire trap. He also gave an overview of recent fires in the area, surrounding areas and within the metropolitan area. Chief Barksdale noted that it's the building industry and officials who are following the County's code.

Informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk