

MILWAUKIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 23, 1984
7 p.m.

LINWOOD SCHOOL

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Milwaukie City Council was held on January 23, 1984 with the following Councilors present:

Mayor Joy Burgess
Mike Richmond
Ron Kinsella

Absent:

Don Graf
Roger Hall

Also present:

Hugh Brown, City Manager
Dick Bailey, Fire Chief
Laurie Perkin, Secretary

The special meeting was held to discuss FIRESTOP, the proposed intergovernmental agreement with Oak Lodge Fire Dept. and the City of Milwaukie.

City Manager gave brief background of the proposal which is an alternative method of providing fire services at a reduced cost. He introduced Dick Bailey, Fire Chief, who gave staff report.

Chief Bailey said this proposal was a result of extensive research by himself and Chief Bill Mills of the Oak Lodge Fire Dept. in an effort to determine an efficient and cost saving method of providing fire protection service. The International Association of Firefighters was contacted, a committee was formed and a study was made with the input of the unions. He said it was decided that objectives must be 1) cost savings, 2) cost must be capped for at least 2 years, and 3) better fire protection service. He said both the City of Milwaukie and the Oak Lodge Fire District have looked at the proposal and have tentatively agreed upon it.

Questions from Audience

Jim Backenstos posed the following questions to Chief Bailey:

1) why is your salary to be \$8 -10,000 higher and why are you the head? 2) will the decision on firestop be made at the administrative level or will the decision be up to the voters? 3) will there be any cutting back of line personnel?

Chief Bailey responded that 1) under ORS 190 and ORS 236 relating to intergovernmental agreements, it is provided that no personnel shall lose benefit because of a merger therefore he (Bailey) would have to make more money than present fire chief. 2) this decision would have to be made

by the City Council however his personal opinion would be that this is a decision better left to elected officials.
3) no cuts in line personnel, however cuts will be made through attrition and administrative personnel.

Backenstos asked if there would be any new equipment relative to this proposal. Bailey said no.

Persons speaking in favor of FIRESTOP

Gordon Morterud, 12405 SE 18th Street, spoke of manning of fire apparatus and the NFP (National Fire Protection) standards used by insurance companies. He gave details of number of men needed for putting lines into a fire, for backup, for pump operation, etc. He said the number needed for a minimum residential fire would be ten and that Milwaukie has only six. Firestop will help to solve this problem, he said.

Kinsella asked if the Firestop proposal would lower the fire insurance rating. Bailey said the city could under the proposal go from a 3 to a 2 rating.

There was discussion on impacts of another measure # 3, City of Portland manning levels, and construction work which will be needed at Station 5 A to house the new fire truck.

Al Liane, 4809 SE Monroe, expressed concern about the possibility of the agreement not working out and about the possibility of the budget not passing. He said also that citizens should have a chance to vote on this issue, that if the agreement did not work out the city would have to take personnel back at a higher rate of pay and the voters would have nothing to say about it. Kinsella referred to amendments made in the proposal which include substitute language having to do with rollback of salaries.

There was further discussion on personnel cuts, budgeting process which would be used, how dissolution would take place in the event of a dispute. Bailey said 180 days notice would be required before dissolution and this would allow time to deal with budgetary issues. He spoke of cost savings of the proposal and explained the formula which has been developed. He said copies of the proposal would be available in the City Manager's office on Thursday, January 26.

There were questions regarding the Civil Service system to be used under this agreement. Bailey said the civil service

system would operate under ORS statutes rather than City of Milwaukie Civil Service and would be used as a hiring process not an appeals body. It has been the wish of both unions and management, he said to simplify grievance procedure.

There was discussion of the boundaries. Bailey said boundaries would be Willamette River, Gladstone, Portland, Oak Ridge area, District # 1 and # 71. approximately 11 1/2 sq. miles and approximate 45,000 population.

There was discussion of other such mergers of fire districts in Oregon. Bailey said there were several in the Salem area and in Roseburg, etc..

Mayor referred to amendments to the proposal which Council has recommended and asked for any other suggested amendments.

Kinsella commented that city identity, salaries, and whether the issue should go to the voters seemed to be the primary concerns expressed by citizenry. There was extended discussion on these issues.

There was discussion on the recent fire on Main Street, the time factor, manning levels, number of stations in operation under Firestop, prevention system, and education of public.

Burgess asked about the cost of dispatch. Bailey said based on assessed value in the current year, it amounted to \$116, 000. Next year between Oak Lodge and Milwaukie it would be approximately \$130,000. He said mutual dispatch with Milwaukie Police Dept. would be a possibility in the future.

Al Liane asked if there had been any consideration given to forming an Oak Lodge - Milwaukie Fire District, permanent structure which would be separate from the city. Bailey and City Manager said they felt this was not the direction people wished to pursue.

There was more discussion on attitude of people toward the proposal and whether or not it should go to a vote. The majority of citizens present were in favor of voting on the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.