Fire and Paramedic Funding Committee
Meeting 2 Summary Notes

DECISIONS

- The Committee would like to meet with NBS (auditor) either in person or on a conference call at the next meeting to understand the impacts of a change in the formula for:

  o a) narrowing the range between the highest tax payers and lowest taxpayers

  o b) reducing the base rate to 2007 levels, and

  o c) instituting a flat tax in comparison to keeping the formula the same.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

- The Committee concluded that maintaining the same formula and text for a parcel tax would be preferable over changing the formula, which may potentially confuse voters.

- Staff reported that there have been no operational issues with the tax as it is written. However, staff will work with the City Attorney's office to update the ballot measure language.

- The Committee concluded to remove the sunset clause on the basis that the City has a 30-year track record of responsible use of tax funds, as audited by both the specialized auditor (NBS) and general auditor.

- It was noted that if the City ultimately found another way to fund fire and paramedic services, the tax could be discontinued. However, without such a funding source, the tax would always be needed.

- The Committee also concluded approximately $40,000 for an election could be saved if an election was not necessary.

- The Committee noted that by not having the sunset clause, the residents would not be subject to changes in the City Council that might jeopardize fire and paramedic services.

NEXT STEPS

- The intent of the Committee is to review ballot measure language at its next meeting, which is based on maintaining the same formula. The wording will be changed if the formula (methodology for calculating the tax) is changed.

- The ballot measure language and formula approved by the Committee will be its' recommendation to the City Council on November 8.

- With review of the ballot measure text at the next meeting, the Committee will begin to discuss public educational materials.