

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
New Fire Station Design by Port One Architects

January 21, 2020 at 6:00pm

Councilors Pepin, Vincent, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron and Paradis were all present.

Mayor Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:00pm by welcoming Kelly Davis and Evan Mullan of Port One Architects. Mr. Davis gave the presentation of the New Fire Station Design.

The presentation is on file. Following the presentation, Council had the following questions.

Councilor Witham shared some of the history of the current fire station. Previously, a committee considered an addition to the fire station at an amount of approximately \$1mil. They decided against this. They have also found that the current fire station wasn't suitable for seismic activity. He asked if they have taken this into consideration for the new facility.

Mr. Davis said yes, code requires it. The new facility is designed with bracing walls and block and brick construction. Mr. Mullen said the building will be constructed according to the 2015 Building Code.

Councilor Witham stated that he appreciates that they are keeping the firefighter safety in mind with the design of the Hot Zones and separate HVAC for these zones. His only concern is that the fire pole from the second floor goes into a hot zone.

Mr. Davis said that the fire pole will have a skirt to close it off from the hot zone.

Councilor Vincent said he has been asked by others why we need to spend so much on a building. He is happy to see the safety measures that are being put into this facility for the safety of our men and women. Councilor Vincent stated, when a firefighter will have to cover the desk, it is on the opposite side of the building. He asked how this was going to work.

Mr. Davis said they wanted to keep operations and administration separate, so the public can enter the admin section of the facility.

Councilor Vincent said there was talk about solar initiative at previous meetings. He doesn't see anything like this in the plan.

Mr. Davis stated that they had discussed geothermals, but that would take the cost to a higher level. There is a potential for grants for this.

Councilor Dumont asked about the square footage of the current building and the proposed new building.

Mr. Davis said the current building has 8100sf, and the proposed new facility will have 14,400sf on the lower level and 3500sf to the upper level.

Councilor Dumont said it is a nice building, but not a good cost. The proposed \$7.6 million is high; about \$2.6 million more than he was expecting. But he also doesn't want to cut short safety. Regarding the living quarters on the upper level, he is concerned that it will increase response time, and possible injuries with the stairs and fire pole.

Councilor Pepin asked about positive space in the Hot Zones.

Mr. Davis said the mechanical engineer addressed this in the report. There will be separate HVAC in the hot zones.

Councilor Gerding asked about the longevity of the building.

Mr. Mullen stated that all building systems are integrated and will have the most recent technology. The building will be big block with a high level of durability. They are not compromising on the material.

City Manager Belmore stated that this facility will also be the Emergency Operations Center in the event of an emergency. Training areas of the facility can be used as the EOC.

With no further questions or comments from Council, the Workshop adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk