

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**October 13, 2009**

**4:10 P.M.**

Councilwoman Ladd, Chairman, called the meeting of the Safety Committee to order with Councilmen McGary, Benson, Berz, Gilbert, Scott, Rico, Robinson and Murphy present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Barry Bennett, Richard Beeland, Greg Haynes, Chief Dodd, Chief Cooper, Fireman Kenneth Harden, Fireman Freddie Brooks, Karen Hundt, Chief Parker, and Yuen Lee.

### **BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' PRESENTATION**

Chairman Ladd noted that Freddie Brooks was present to go over a program that would be beneficial to the City.

**Firefighter Kenneth Harden** spoke first stating that he was a member of the Black Professional Firefighters, mentioning a program called "Stop Fire" and a Grant which allowed several to travel to Washington, D.C. to produce this campaign and video. He introduced Freddie Brooks who is the National Chairman and who also went to Washington.

**Firefighter Freddie Brooks** stated that he was off duty and injured his shoulder. He noted that African-Americans are affected by fire and firefighters all across the country have produced a DVD. He stated that with the Council's help, they would go into each district; that it would cost no money, and this program could be implemented without funds, and he would leave the program with Chairman Ladd; that they would go into each district and identify problems—that cooking fires would be an introduction; that this would be an opportunity to come out and educate and market the fire service in the City. He stated that he had spoken with the Fire Chief, and he understood his passion; that they would target the kids with backpacks. He mentioned his Resume, noting that to be a member of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters, he first had to be an employee of the City of Chattanooga; that the City had paid for him to receive this education; that he had implemented these programs across the country and saw a need for this to be implemented at home; that they would do this as an organization and would have to hit every neighborhood and church and teach them at no cost but with compassion. He stated that the programs would be useful in the City of Chattanooga. He asked that Chairman Ladd look through the book, stating that they would be more than happy to help the City do this. He had a token for everyone, which was a cooking apron and bottle opener, which he said was all he had.

Councilman Murphy noted that both of our chiefs were present. He mentioned burglar bars, which terrified the Fire Department. He questioned if they had looked into some grant money to retro-fit bedroom windows; that these bars were scary because of entrapment.

Firefighter Brooks noted that these bars were used because people did not want crime to come in and there are quick release bars that can be used; that Hixson was not a high-crime area; however they would come into every district.

Councilman Murphy asked if we would see this within the next 24 months.

Chief Parker mentioned that Fire Trucks had wenches that could be used.

Councilman Gilbert expressed his appreciation for them coming down to speak, stating that we should bring them in; that many people when cooking would throw water on a grease fire, which would make it worse. He stated that he thought this program would cut down on our costs.

Councilwoman Berz expressed interest and made sure Firefighter Brook's card was in the information.

### **LEED COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR FIREHALL NO. 7**

Chief Parker was present to go over **Resolution (k)** on next week's agenda that authorizes the Fire Chief to retain Campbell and Associates Engineers to provide LEED compliance review and certification for Firehall No. 7 at a cost not to exceed \$20,800.00. Councilwoman Scott confirmed that this was just proving that it was built to LEED standards. Chief Parker explained that we had to have third party verification. Councilwoman Scott asked if our engineer knew we wanted LEED standards, and the answer was "yes". She questioned paying \$20,000 just to certify and asked if we would not make sure of this anyway. Chief Parker added that we have to track the waste. Councilwoman Scott questioned paying an engineer and then paying another one on top of this to say what we had to do, stating that this seemed like "over-engineering". Chief Parker agreed that it was overkill, but it is required by the Energy Council.

Councilman Murphy asked if there was an MOU that called for the Fire Station to be LEED certified? Chief Parker stated that it was optional.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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