

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MAY 8, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Victor Kidd, Barbara Spaeth, Rich Cox, Tom Grossmann, Charlene Pelfrey, and Don Prince. David Nichols joined the meeting through a conference call.

FIRE LEVY

Eric Hansen reviewed the recent discussions of Fire funding, Safety Committee recommendations and impacts of a 5 mill replacement levy. Chief Moore discussed items that could impact fire funding the next five years including EMS billing, continued partnerships, grants, and deferring capital purchases. Council discussed alternatives for securing Fire funding and need to balance difficult economic circumstances with priority of Fire/EMS services. A 5 mill levy has funded the department since it began in 1998 and is not adequate for current operating costs. For 9 years there has not been an inflationary adjustment of revenues supporting Fire. Council discussed that continuing a 5 mill levy is a short term solution, will erode current balances, likely require support from general fund, require vigilance on expenses, and will need to be revisited to maintain current service levels before 2017 once the economy recovers.

Council discussed taking action at the next regular Council meeting to request an auditor's certificate and hold a 1st reading to place a 5 mill replacement levy on the ballot.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Clerk of Council



Mayor