

Mayor Pro Tem Barry moved that we set aside \$250,000 out of the fund balance for the next calendar year. We subsidize them at a rate between \$230,000 and \$260,000. It seems that we would be on the hook for about that same amount for the operation next year anyway based on my comments of support towards the fire station. All we are doing is setting it aside before the budget process begins.

Councilwoman Hadley - I would like to raise it to \$300,000.

Councilmember Thomisser – There is no question that everyone at this table supports the fire services and the Providence VFD but it delivers a message much like what is happening in Washington, DC. We are kicking this issue down the road. I want to see a resolution to this before June 30. I cannot support it.

Mayor Pro Tem Barry – The Town Council at our retreat in 2011 met with the President and Board members of Providence VFD and I remember our commitment to them that the Council had heartburn of them spending our money first and we are desirous of them paying off some equipment and spending their balances and we would be there as a fall back for them during this process. We agreed later that we would be here for the next 18 to 24 months to continue to work with them as they work to resolve their operational cash flow issue. Beyond 2012/2013 budget year is beyond the scope of any of those agreements that we made with them.

Councilwoman Harrison – I did not see anything in the minutes that said June 30 was the drop dead date. In good faith they have paid off some of their equipment and this is no different than putting money aside for a road or for a library. I think we should do this. You keep saying that station will not close but I do not think anyone here can guarantee that is not the case. I want to make sure that they understand and the people of their district understand that we are here to make sure that does not happen.

Councilmember Thomisser – The people that ultimately decide whether that station stays or goes away is the board of the Providence VFD and the board of Wesley Chapel VFD.

Mayor Davidson – The deficit that they are going to run is \$309,400. I would like to see it up to \$300,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Barry advised that he would not accept a friendly amendment. The vote on Mayor Pro Tem Barry's motion is as follows:

AYES: Mayor Pro Tem Barry
NAYS: Councilmembers Thomisser, Hadley, Harrison

The motion failed.

Councilwoman Hadley moved to assign \$300,000 in the Fund Balance for Providence VFD. The vote on this motion is as follows:

AYES: Councilwomen Hadley and Harrison
NAYS: Councilmembers Thomisser and Mayor Pro Tem Barry

Mayor Davidson voted in the affirmative; therefore, the motion passed.

Item No. 9. Approval of Minutes.

A. November 14, 2011 Regular Town Council Meeting. Councilmember Thomisser moved to approve the November 14, 2011 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. All were in favor, with votes recorded as follows: