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# NEWS RELEASE

City to start talks with Fire Protection District on the use of River City Hall for fire services

**Durango, CO:**

At a special meeting Tuesday Durango City Council voted to begin negotiating terms that would allow the Durango Fire Protection District (DFPD) to use River City Hall as its downtown fire station.

“My biggest hope here is that this will be a process that will involve the public looking at how best to use this site, and recognizing its value to the city,” said Durango Mayor Barbara Noseworthy

Since the beginning of 2022 the city council and the DFPD board have held several joint meetings to discuss how the two could work together to find a new home for DFPD. This open dialogue between DFPD and the city began around the same time that DFPD purchased the Durango School District 9-R administration building with the hopes of converting it to a downtown station.

“We saw an opportunity to be able to have open communication and have an open dialogue with ourselves, with DFPD, and with 9-R to discuss how we can better meet each of our needs,” said Durango City Manager José Madrigal.

The negotiation period will last a year. If the city and DFPD do not reach an agreement on River City Hall by the end of the year-long negotiation period, DFPD will continue to move forward with its current plans to convert the 9-R administration Building.

Additionally, this negotiation period will allow the school district to remain in administration building for another year. Classes at Big Picture High School, located on the administration building property, would also continue in for another year.

The negotiation will still need to be formally approved by both City Council and the DFPD board through a memorandum of understanding.

“I think that this process has the potential to be a very large win win for everyone.” said Councilor Kim Baxter. “I this is really about working together and partnership and figuring out a way have the best outcome for everyone, including the community and DFPD.”

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