



POLICE DEPARTMENT
John M. Billester, Police Chief
(360) 354 - 2828

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4:00 PM April 11, 2019

Police Department Training Room

COMMITTEE

1. ROLL CALL:

Members present: Councilors Brent Lenssen (chair), Mark Wohlrab, Mayor Scott Korthuis. Absent: Gary Bode

Staff present: Chief John Billester, Chief Mark Billmire, City Administrator Mike Martin, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Approve minutes from March 5, 2019 meeting.

The March 5, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS: None

4. ITEMS ADDED:

A. Request for consideration to allow golf carts on City streets.

Mick O'Bryan from Homestead Golf Course provided information on golf carts he would like the Council to consider allowing on limited roadways. Streets he suggested include parts of Depot Rd to the airport, Bender Rd and Bender Plaza, and downtown streets to The Inn At Lynden.

The proposed golf carts would be fully safety equipped with seatbelts, headlights, turn signals, GPS, the ability to disable remotely, and min/max speeds. They should also be inspected and registered to meet specific regulations. Mr. O'Bryan requested a trial period of 18 months, hoping to start in June if possible. He can bring proposed regulations and examples of successful communities.

Safety concerns were expressed along with how to keep the traffic contained to designated streets, and enforcing the regulations.

B. Citizen Herman Meenk expressed frustration with the new dispatch process, having to call 911 to receive assistance at the police station. The dispatch system was further explained to Mr. Meenk, and acknowledged more public education on calling 911 would be helpful. The Police Dept will create an informative flyer to be distributed in the water bills.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. **ACTION ITEMS:** None

2. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A. March monthly report

Chief Billmire presented the March monthly report, noting one of our Lynden firefighters participated in the Seattle Stairclimb and did very well.

Councilor Lenssen requested additional breakdown if possible by type of call, EMS vs fire, and how many transports.

3. **ITEMS ADDED:**

A. A bid for a new Braun ambulance came in just under \$170,000, which is less than budgeted.

B. Chief Billmire advised they have met with representatives from the GRACE Program, and have committed two EMTs to act as 'liaisons' to work with the GRACE Program nurses and make contact with citizens in need who have been referred to the program.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. **ACTION ITEMS:** None

2. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A. Draft ordinance banning dogs at community events

Chief Billester presented a draft ordinance banning dogs at community events. Brent suggested a minor change and advised to send it to Carmichael Clark for legal review, and return to Public Safety.

B. Updating fingerprint fees

Increased fees for fingerprinting services were proposed to match other agencies in Whatcom County. All members were in agreement to move forward; John will complete a resolution for Council approval and forward the information to Finance.

C. Hiring status update

Lateral officer, Anders Fiksdal is scheduled to start May 1, 2019.

D. Monthly report, Case of the month

A new report format was presented to include calls by day of the week and time of day. Continued work with CompuWork is underway to extract crime statistics from Longarm. Several cases were mentioned including an accidental discharge of a firearm, high speed pursuit up to 105 mph, and another pursuit ending with a PIT (Pursuit Intervention Technique) maneuver.

E. Lynden Watch Program update

The first public orientation meeting was held at the PD with 29 people in attendance and more joining. The City map was divided into 16 pieces and individuals wanting to be block contacts were identified. Councilor Wohlrab suggested a \$5000/yr budget for the Lynden Watch Program to account for things like signs, stickers, etc.

3. ITEMS ADDED: None

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: May 2, 2019

DRAFT