



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Steve Taylor, Police Chief
(360) 354 - 2828

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4:00 p.m. June 4, 2020
Police Department Training Room

COMMITTEE

1. ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Korthuis and Councilors Mark Wohlrab, Brent Lenssen, and Gerald Kuiken

Staff present: City Administrator Mike Martin, Chief Mark Billmire, Chief Steve Taylor, Assistant Chief Tom Hatley, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Approve minutes from the May meeting.

The minutes from the May 7, 2020 meeting were approved.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Lynden WATCH update

Posts in May included information on Governor Inslee's 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' order, vandalism at Bender Fields, WA Unemployment fraud, and residential burn permits. Councilor Wohlrab proposed to reduce the budget for Lynden WATCH from \$10,000 to \$1,500.

4. ITEMS ADDED:

Robert Glorioso, 256 Whitetail Lp, Blaine, WA, spoke in regard to the recent job description change of the Fire Department's Captain position. He claimed the revision was made without any input from the firefighters who had been fulfilling those positions, and those same firefighters are now ineligible to do the job. Councilor Lenssen requested a copy of the job description for review.

Additionally, Mr. Glorioso spoke regarding COVID-19 and alleged that there is no clear documentation that identifies the process to protect firefighters, and the process if someone is exposed to COVID-19. He also expressed concern over what he described as "discriminatory" behavior towards firefighter(s) who were denied FMLA sick leave benefits.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. ACTION ITEMS: None

2. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Monthly report

Chief Billmire overviewed the monthly report for May. There were 14 response calls to possible COVID-19 cases, 3 of which tested positive. The swearing in ceremony for both the new firefighters will be included in the next in-person City Council meeting, along with the PD's newest officer.

There were 250 training hours in May including joint training with North Whatcom and District 1. A/C Hatley is working to get everyone certified in the Driver Operator Training Program.

B. Station renovation update

Meetings have been scheduled to do walkthroughs with subcontractors. The design phase is progressing well with no surprises thus far.

C. Captain qualification exam

A civil service meeting was held to approve the job description for the captain position and a qualification exam. The new job description incorporates professional development, which adds validity to the promotion. The qualification exam is scheduled for June 29, 2020. The current lieutenants are eligible to apply for the exam.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. **ACTION ITEMS:** None

2. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A. Outdoor alcohol consumption

Restaurants looking to serve alcohol outside to help accommodate capacity limits will need prior approval from the Liquor Control Board. Chief Taylor provided a list of FAQs from the Liquor Control Board website as a resource.

B. Monthly report

Chief Taylor presented the monthly report for May, noting a significant jump in thefts, an overwhelming majority of which were unemployment fraud reports. Overtime hours for shift coverage continues to be down, much due to being fully staffed.

One of the LEMAP recommendations was to promote 2 corporal positions to provide a supervisor on duty during most hours of the day. Lt Martin is working with HR and the Union to create a job description and timeline for assessment testing, which will be hosted by Ferndale PD.

Meeting adjourned 4:43 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: July 2, 2020