

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Online (Microsoft Teams)

4:00 PM October 07, 2021

Call to Order

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: City Administrator John Williams, Chief Mark Billmire, Assistant Chief Ryan Yoshimoto, Chief Steve Taylor, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, Lieutenant Russ Martin, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of September 9, 2021 meeting minutes

The minutes from the September 9, 2021 meeting were approved.

Items from the Audience

Scheduled/Unscheduled

None.

Committee Items

2. Public Safety Overtime - September 2021

Police Department overtime hours were higher than normal in September due to being down 1 position, 2 officers out on COVID related household quarantine, 1 officer on bereavement leave, quarterly range training, and holiday hours. COVID related hours are tracked through Finance and may be eligible to apply for reimbursement.

Fire Department overtime hours were slightly lower than August, but still high due to volunteer hours being low, approximately 200 compared to 300-400 previously. Chief Billmire advised there has been an increase in participation recently, so there should be a reduction in October's overtime hours. Year to date hours is still lower than last year.

Fire Department Items

3. Introduction of AC Yoshimoto

Assistant Chief Ryan Yoshimoto was present and introduced himself. He started last Friday with onboarding, introductions, and touring the various City facilities.

4. Fire Monthly Report - September 2021

Chief Billmire presented the monthly report for September. 189 total calls, 78% of those being EMS calls, 42 transports, and 49 overlapping calls. Aid given 19 times; aid received 9 times. There were 15 COVID watch responses, and average response time was down at 5:21. A 20-year 9/11 remembrance ceremony was held, well attended, and appreciated.

5. L-106 Contract Update

The contract was ratified by the Department last Friday and approved by City Council on Monday. Chief Billmire complimented everyone involved, noting the process was well organized and went very smoothly.

6. Station Update

The expected completion date has been moved from October 15th to November 1st, which is a pretty firm deadline as the lease agreement on the temporary station is up in the middle of November. The ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled for December 3rd.

7. Staffing Update

The Civil Service Commission certified both the full-time and part-time hiring lists. One current volunteer has been selected to fill the full-time position, and 4 part-time employees have also been selected, 3 of those are current volunteers as well. The volunteer program will continue, there are 3 new volunteers in the recruit academy now.

Police Department Items

8. Police Monthly Report - September 2021

Chief Taylor presented the monthly report for September, noting call volume remains steady at 690 calls for service. Several crime stats ticked down from August with the incidents associated with the Fair. The State recently performed an audit of our Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) use, security, policies and procedures, and we were found to be in compliance across the board.

Oral board interviews were held today for 6 lateral applicants. The panel will review and discuss; Chief's interviews are tentatively scheduled for next week. Chief Taylor hopes to have someone onboard to fill the current vacancy before the end of the year, after all the required background, medical, psychological exams are completed.

Added Items

Councilor Wohlrab requested the status of the Fire Dept regarding the State vaccine mandate. Chief Billmire advised that there has been a lack of participation in providing the required documentation from everyone, so it is unknown how many employees will comply by the October 18th deadline. He will evaluate the potential impact to staffing levels at that time.

Councilor Lenssen requested an agenda item in the next month or so to discuss the metrics Mayor Korthuis spoke about regarding the addition of police officer positions.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.