



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
***SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING***  
4:00 PM January 9, 2020  
Police Department Training Room

## **COMMITTEE**

### **1. ROLL CALL:**

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

Staff present: Chief Mark Billmire, Assistant Chief Tom Hatley, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, Lieutenant Russ Martin, City Administrator Mike Martin, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

### **2. ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **A. Approve minutes from December 2, 2019 meeting.**

The December 2, 2019 Public Safety meeting minutes were approved.

### **3. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **A. Obsolete Code Revisions**

Councilor Lenssen provided a proposed ordinance to revise several outdated City ordinances, to include extending the hours of alcohol sales to 2:00 a.m., eliminating or revising dance permits and restrictions, as well as horse taxis. This will be discussed further in the Community Development Committee.

#### **B. Lynden WATCH update**

Councilor Wohlrab gave an update on the Lynden WATCH program, noting an increase in followers of 30%, totaling 2600 people.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **1. ACTION ITEMS:** None

### **2. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **A. Monthly report for November and December**

Chief Billmire presented the November and December monthly reports, including a new statistic of most common addresses responded to.

#### **B. New ambulance – will be at PD for inspection**

The new ambulance was at the PD briefly, but then called out to respond to a vehicle collision.

**C. WC Narcan Leave Behind program**

Whatcom County has launched a Narcan Leave Behind program, funded by an EMS levy, in which EMS personnel can offer a free Narcan kit at the response scene where a patient was revived from an overdose.

**D. Career FF recruitment process**

The City is currently advertising for full-time career Firefighters, closing at the end of January.

**E. Fire Station renovation**

Chief Billmire provided a feasibility study / pre-design draft on the Fire Station renovation. Mayor Korthuis advises to begin the design process and be prepared to start the project when the funding is available. A request for proposals will be sent out, anticipating construction in the spring of 2021.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**1. ACTION ITEMS:** None

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**A. Staffing update**

Chief Steve Taylor starts on January 16, 2020 and will be sworn in at the next Council meeting. Two conditional offers have been made to lateral candidates, scheduled to start on February 1, 2020 and March 1, 2020. These hires will fill the current vacancy, and the 17<sup>th</sup> officer position.

**B. Armory update**

The armory is in the process of being remodeled, thanks to Public Works crew doing phenomenal work. It will be dedicated to Chief Knapp, with commemorative wall graphics in his honor.

**C. Monthly report**

Lieutenant Martin overviewed the monthly report, noting an increase in DUIs due to the holidays, and vehicle prowls are back up, again all unlocked vehicles.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date: February 6, 2020**

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Holly Vega, Police Support Svc Mgr

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Scott Korthuis, Mayor