



## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

3:30 p.m. December 2, 2019  
Police Department Training Room

### **COMMITTEE**

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

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

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

#### **2. ACTION ITEMS:** None.

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

##### **A. 2020 Police and Fire proposed budget review**

Councilor Lenssen expressed concern regarding a cut to the Fire Department's training budget, which was based on the past 3 years spending average. Chief Billmire has a plan in place to utilize more training funds in the future and will request additional funds if needed.

The Police Department's vehicle replacement plan was discussed. Lt. Martin will be working on a plan for review including the option of leasing versus buying vehicles.

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

Councilor Wohlrab gave a brief update on the WATCH program, it being a quiet month. A post regarding holiday package thefts will be coming soon.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **1. ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **A. Review for approval City Ordinance No. 1598 Fire Suppression Water Facilities and Service**

The proposed ordinance was reviewed and recommended for Council approval on December 2, 2019.

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

##### **A. Monthly report**

Chief Billmire overviewed the October monthly report, noting the excellent average response time of 4:03 minutes. Also the value of station tours to our community, providing an opportunity to educate children on public safety.

**B. Support Services Manager update**

Sarah Silvas started on November 18, 2019 and is doing fantastic. She will be working with Sandi for a few weeks to help with the transition.

**C. Assistant Chief update**

Tom Hatley from Spokane District 8, has been offered and accepted the Assistant Chief position and is scheduled to start after the first of the year.

**D. Staffing update**

Two firefighters will soon be moving on to other agencies and there is not a current eligibility list. The Committee unanimously agreed it would be wise to have an active, ongoing eligibility list for the next few years.

**E. Crisis Chaplin position discussion**

Chief Billmire would like to formalize a City relationship with Wil Rosado, a volunteer support officer. He has been a valuable support and resource for both the Fire and Police departments.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**1. ACTION ITEMS:** None.

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**A. Chief position update**

Steve Taylor from Searcy, Arkansas has been offered and accepted the Chief position, scheduled to start on January 16, 2020. Lt. Martin and Sgt. Beld travelled to Arkansas to do some background interviews, and found only positive remarks.

**B. Staffing update**

Oral boards for 5 lateral officer candidates are scheduled for December 5, 2019. Officer Randy Humphreys has been promoted to Patrol Sergeant and will be recognized at the next Council meeting.

**C. Monthly report**

Lt. Martin presented the monthly report for November, noting a drop in vehicle prowls. Operation Stonegarden overtime hours have increased significantly, as the current grant must be expended by the end of 2019.

**3. ADDED:**

- A. Councilor Bode requested several areas to be monitored by radar, and perhaps adding radar signs.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date: January 9, 2019**