

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM November 04, 2021

Call to Order

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Chief Mark Billmire, Assistant Chief Ryan Yoshimoto, Chief Steve Taylor, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, HR Manager Kim Clemons, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of October 7, 2021 meeting minutes

The minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting were approved.

Items from the Audience

2. Golf Cart Discussion - Sarah Burns

Sarah Burns, 104 S 8th St, Lynden, requested consideration of making Lynden a golf cart friendly community. Chief Taylor noted a few items including street and speed limit restrictions, signage and equipment requirements, and licensed driver requirements. The committee will review the documents S.Burns provided and readdress at the next meeting.

Committee Items

3. Public Safety Overtime - October 2021

Police Department overtime was at 370 hours for October, the bulk of which was for shift coverage. There is 1 vacancy, 2 officers out on FMLA, and 1 off for COVID related leave.

Fire Department overtime was at 386 hours for October, down significantly from last month. Parttime hours were at 256.

Fire Department Items

4. Fire Monthly Report - October 2021

Chief Billmire presented the monthly report for October, 162 total calls, 77% were EMS, 41 transports, 43 overlapping calls. Aid given 12 times; aid received 8 times. Response time decreased to just over 5 minutes. Assistant Chief Yoshimoto spoke about the recent training, including a live fire training drill hosted by District-1.

Councilor Wohlrab inquired if Lynden is experiencing an increase in calls related to recent legislative change in HB 1310. Chief Billmire expressed that although there has been an increase in call volume, there is not currently a system in place to track or report those calls affected by HB 1310 by category.

5. Station Update

Final meetings are scheduled next week for the installation of the alerting system. Packing up the temporary station will begin Nov 12th, moving in between Nov 15th-16th. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for December 3rd at 3:00pm.

Police Department Items

6. Police Monthly Report - October 2021

Chief Taylor presented the monthly report for October. Call volume and activity stayed within average ranges. Domestic violence incidents were down, but misdemeanor assaults were up.

7. Hiring Update

A conditional offer has been made to a lateral candidate from the WA State Patrol, contingent on the completion of the background investigation, psychological, medical and polygraph exams. Chief Taylor hopes to have him onboard on December 1st.

Added Items

8. Proposal for Additional Police Officers

Councilor Wohlrab brought forward the proposal to follow the Chief's recommendation for 2 additional positions (18th and 19th officer positions) in the 2022 budget. Discussion ensued on crime statistics, officers per capita, and comparable cities.

Chief Taylor expressed the need for the 18th position to even out the patrol squads and help reduce overtime, and the 19th position to add an additional detective to help with the increasing investigative case load currently handled by 1 detective.

Councilor Lenssen made a motion that the public safety committee recommend hiring the 18th and 19th officer positions in 2022 (the 19th position hired after 6 months in 2022). Councilor Kuiken supports the motion. Councilor Wohlrab notes to move forward with the recommendation to full council.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.