



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4:00 PM March 5, 2019

Police Department Training Room

### COMMITTEE

#### 1. ROLL CALL:

Members present: Councilors Brent Lenssen (chair), Gary Bode, Mark Wohrab, Mayor Scott Korthuis.

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

Public present: Gary Vis, Chamber of Commerce

#### 2. ACTION ITEMS:

##### A. Approve minutes from February 7, 2019 meeting.

The February 7, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

#### 3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

##### A. Discussion regarding past consolidation efforts between LFD and NWFR District-21.

Mayor Korthuis overviewed the main points that were considered during past discussions on a consolidation with NWFR District-21. Topics included governance, longer response times, no control of rates, personnel placement, equipment and facility responsibility. Concluding, the level of service to the citizens of Lynden would not be improved.

#### 4. ITEMS ADDED:

A. Gary Vis of the Chamber of Commerce presented a letter to the Council, requesting approval of events scheduled in 2019. Councilor Lenssen advised to add it to the next consent agenda.

B. Gary Vis also requested the City consider approving an ordinance prohibiting animals at the Northwest Raspberry Festival. He provided a sample ordinance from the City of Spokane.

The Committee was in favor and Councilor Lenssen advised to bring a proposed ordinance back to the Public Safety Committee for review.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1. **ACTION ITEMS:** None
2. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**
  - A. **February monthly report**  
Chief Billmire presented a monthly report for February to include 171 total calls, OT hours, volunteer hours, training hours, and several significant structure fires.
3. **ITEMS ADDED:**  
Councilor Wohlrab inquired if the City would benefit from the addition of a Community Paramedic. Chief Billmire expressed that he thinks the City would benefit, as well from the GRACE (Ground-Level Response And Coordinated Engagement) Program.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1. **ACTION ITEMS:** None
2. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**
  - A. **Hiring status update**  
Lieutenant Bos advised that a conditional offer was made to the top lateral candidate, which has been verbally accepted. Pre-employment testing will be scheduled soon, followed by background.
3. **ITEMS ADDED:**
  - A. **Monthly Report**  
A monthly report was provided; and staff are working on a new format to include more statistics regarding the time of day of calls, etc. Lt. Bos noted several cases of interest to include identifying at least 1 suspect in the catalytic convertor thefts, a Pitbull attack, and a high profile stabbing our officers responded to assisting the Sheriff's Office.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date: April 11, 2019**