

# CITY OF LYNDEN

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



### **Public Safety Committee Meeting – September 5, 2024, Minutes**

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM September 05, 2024

**Call to Order:** 4:00 pm

#### **Roll Call**

Committee Members Present: Chair, Mark Wohlrab, Gary Vis and Lee Beld

Others Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis, City Administrator John Williams, Fire Chief Mark Billmire, Police Chief Steve Taylor, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, Police Support Services Manager Sharon Clark

#### **Approval of Minutes**

1. June 2024 Minutes – Approved
2. August 2024 Minutes – Approved

#### **Items from the Audience**

##### ***Scheduled***

None scheduled.

##### ***Unscheduled (20 Minutes)***

No unscheduled items.

#### **Committee Items**

##### **Fire Department Items**

3. August 2024 Report – LFD

240 total calls, highest call volume since Chief Billmire has been here. 102 overlapping calls, EMS calls are up, aid given/received was down and response time was down. It was a busy month with public education. There were more on-scene calls at the Fair. This is the first year that the Fire Department did not perform First Aid for the Fair.

Mr. Wohlrab expressed concern over the over-lapping, doubling down and relying on assistance from other agencies as our City continues to grow and feels that we need to

work on staffing numbers. Mayor Korthuis agreed; however, it is a matter of finding the money to do this.

Mr. Beld asked for clarification on the different time stats, eg. turnout time, response time etc.

Cobblestone Hotel is ready to go as soon as they receive the L&I inspection on their elevators. They're hoping to open by the end of the month.

The 55+ Apartments on Aaron, Lynden Commons, Over Flow Taps and Graze and Gather are also close to opening and On Rice is requesting their occupancy permits.

The Fire Department is performing Blood Pressure Checks at the Senior Center.

### **Police Department Items**

4. UTV/ATV Ordinances from Richland, Kennewick and Walla Walla County were handed out for review.
5. Public Safety Stats - August 2024

There were 860 calls for service, up from 818 last month. Thefts were up last month, but this is not unusual during Fair Week.

The new records clerk, Jayden Loreen, started this week and has been doing well. Testing was started for the new officer, and we are awaiting the results of his medical, but he is slated to tentatively start on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Delivery was taken of the new Detective car this week, thus retiring the old Crown Vic.

City Administrator Williams mentioned one significant difference in the RCW between the ATVs, WATVs and ORVs vs the NEVs is that in the older code, you had to map up where they could be ridden within the City but he did not see that in the code for the NEVs or medium speed vehicles.

The RCW concerning the WATVs is written such that they are prohibited within the Cities unless the Cities pass an ordinance allowing them and the RCW on the NEVs is the opposite, they're allowed unless the City says that they can't.

Mr. Wohlrab expressed concern on the safety of operating these in the City and recommended us not allowing them.

Mr. Beld disagreed and noted that scooters and electric bicycles, which offer far less protection, are already allowed to operate. He would like to offer a trial of one to two years to see how this goes.

It was agreed that the issue should go before Council and then a motion could be presented for a decision with a possible year long trial.

**Added Items**

Fire Chief Billmire was recognized for his years of service to the City of Lynden.

Judge Lewis is officially retired now after 23 years.

**Adjournment** – 4:57 pm