

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting - 03/06/2025 Minutes

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM March 06, 2025

Roll Call

1. Committee Members Present: Lee Beld and Mark Wohlrab

Others Present: City Administrator John Williams, Fire Chief Michael Noonan, Assistant Fire Chief Kristie Watson, Police Chief Steve Taylor, Lieutenant Randy Humphreys and Support Services Manager Sharon Clark

Call to Order

1600

Approval of Minutes

2. February 2025 Meeting Draft Minutes: Approved

Items from the Audience

None Scheduled

Unscheduled (20 Minutes)

Cynthia Ripke – 7000 block Guide Meridian: Questioned if the Pledge of Allegiance is performed at the start of the Public Safety Meetings. It was stated that it had been done once but generally it is not done. She acknowledged the promotion of Lt. Randy Humphreys and would like to encourage citizens to attend the smaller committee meetings. Also, she would like to see any officers, including the Police Chief at the Council Meetings dressed in uniform and to have another officer in uniform to be there for backup in case something was to happen.

Committee Items

No Items

Fire Department Items

3. AC Watson provided an update on the delivery of the Quint noting that it has been brought up to Mt. Vernon so that it can be looked over for anything that needs to be fixed before final delivery. There were no operational deficiencies found but there were 20 little things that have been documented and scheduled to be fixed. It will then be sent to Communications Northwest in Bellingham for radio installation. It is scheduled to be delivered to Lynden sometime between the end of March/beginning of April. There is a tentative date for the Push-in Ceremony on April 21st.

Chief Noonan provide the Monthly report for the Fire Department for February. The first 2 months are up over 10% vs. 2024. Run volume for February of this year is up 47% in comparison to February of last year. Fire Marshal work is staying steady, and Community Outreach is going well. EMS responses are at 188, there were 173 calls and 102 incidences of overlapping calls. 52 of those were minimal and 50 of them left the city without fire/aid coverage if another call were to come in. The Chief wanted to express the significance of leaving the city naked for periods of time. Last month had the most calls where this has happened in the last 5 months.

The average transport call takes an hour and 42 minutes, from time of dispatch to time back to return to the station. The Fire Department has been short staffed recently due to injuries and illnesses, making it difficult to fill overtime shifts. There has been discussion about implementing a light vehicle that would respond to minimal calls only.

Police Department Items

4. Public Safety Stats - February 2025. 626 total calls, down from 777 last month and down from 687 last year.

Officer Bierlink is off FTO and out on her own doing a terrific job. Officer Fletcher is back to full duty and that coupled with Officer Bierlink being on the schedule, this makes a big difference in overtime. Officer Dunn is back on light duty, hoping to be back to full duty in June.

There has been an uptick in Fraud cases. There was \$254,741 lost in 2023, \$392,020 in 2024 and \$18,866 this year already. The most recent cases have had victims withdrawing money and being asked to deposit the money into crypto currency. There have also been cases where people come to the victim's residence to pick up the money from the victim. The best way to combat Fraud is to try to stop it from happening in the first place. The Detectives will be doing a program at the Community Center and the Annex on April 14th to get information out there.

There were a lot of vehicles and businesses that had their windows blown out by a BB Gun overnight. Officers are working hard to find a suspect in these cases.

Committee Member Beld requested that the number of traffics stops made per day be added to Police Stats.

Added Items

Regarding ATVs, it is now with the Council as a Whole, to make a decision regarding this matter.

Adjournment