

**CITY OF BRENTWOOD, MISSOURI
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**

Alderman Plufka called the Public Safety Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Pittman called for attendance.

Alderman Plufka – Present
Alderman Kramer – Present
Alderman Lochmoeller – Present
Alderwoman Sims – Present

Also present were: City Administrator Bola Akande, Police Chief Dan Fitzgerald, Fire Chief Terry Kurten, Assistant Fire Chief Ronnie Cottrell, Public Works Director Dan Gummershaimer, and City Clerk Pittman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderman Lochmoeller made a motion to amend the agenda by moving items currently under L to 3 & 4 under H. Motion seconded by Alderwoman Sims. Hearing no additional changes, the agenda was approved as amended by acclamation. **MOTION PASSED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes August 18, 2016

Hearing no changes, by acclamation, the meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

None

CHAIRMAN COMMENT

None

BIDS

1. Bid Results – Request to Purchase 23 Structural Firefighting Gear

As part of the 2016 Budget, the Fire Department budgeted \$103,500.00 to fund replacement of 23 sets of Structural firefighting gear which includes coats, pants, boots, and gloves. NFPA recommends a ten year usable service life for turnout gear as long as it continues to pass inspection. For the purchase in 2012 we worked closely with Metro West Fire District on a turnout gear purchase of over 100 sets that they made. We benefitted from that process by obtaining pricing that was based on over 100 sets of gear. The fire department implemented a plan in 2012 to use new gear for no more than five years as a primary gear. Currently the fire department does not have two fully compliant sets of gear; this purchase will provide a new primary set of gear for all employees, and will allow for a secondary set of compliant gear for each employee. The 2012 gear will remain in secondary service for the remainder of its useful life. We anticipate the remaining lifespan to be another 5 years, unless it does not pass inspection and certification. The secondary set of gear is used when the primary set of gear

requires repair, is sent out for bi- annual cleaning and inspection, or when the primary set is soaking wet from a fire or rain storm. This program allows us to provide two sets of compliant gear for every employee and with the plan to be cycled every five years.

We budgeted \$103,500.00 to purchase 23 sets of coats & pants, gloves, and boots. We were able to obtain pricing in the amounts of; 23 sets of coats, pants, and boots from Sentinel Emergency Solutions in the amount of \$69,638.71 & 23 pairs of firefighting gloves from Leo M. Ellebracht Company in the amount of \$1,976.85.

Chief Kurten requested support for a first and second reading at the Board of Alderman meeting on September 19th, 2016 to expedite product delivery times and ensure we receive, and pay the bills prior to the end of the year. Alderman Plufka noted that since there are two meetings per month it wouldn't put the ordering to far behind to allow both the first and second readings and allow citizens to voice their concerns.

Motion was made by Alderman Kramer to recommend to the Board of Aldermen the purchase of turnout gear consistent with the recommendation from Chief Kurten for staggered readings to begin on 9/19. Alderwoman Sims seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL:** Alderman Kramer – yes; Alderman Lochmoeller – yes; Alderwoman Sims – yes; Alderman Plufka – yes; **MOTION PASSED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Investigation of City-Wide Traffic Calming Techniques, Work Order #43

The City's Traffic Engineer had previously stated that reports would be available on items 1 & 2 but they are unavailable. Alderman Plufka tabled the discussion until the October meeting.

All-Way Stop Sign Evaluation at Pine Avenue and Hatton Avenue, Work Order #46

Although the Traffic Engineer reports are not yet available but required to accompany the addition of a new stop sign, Alderman Plufka decided to weigh in. Plufka is interested in moving forward on this stop sign due to examples of more stop signs cutting down on cut through traffic as seen on Spoede Rd. The proposed stop sign is located at a jog in the road and Plufka feels this is also a safety issue. Alderman Kramer noted that the addition of stop signs has historically had a polarizing effect of drivers vs residents. Kramer would like to review the report and evaluate other traffic calming techniques before resorting to simply adding more stop signs. Alderman Lockmoeller would also like to review the Engineer's report.

McKnight/Sonora Striping and MUTCD Signs

In early September 2016, new crosswalk signs, crosswalk bars (white paint), and pavement striping (yellow centerline and white edge of lane demarcation) on McKnight Road was performed. All of the completed work was performed per the proposed improvements plan and followed MUTCD guidelines and standards.

The previously approved signage was for the middle of the road but Gummersheimer feels as if this could cause vehicle damage especially in the cases of delivery trucks. Since the City of Ladue does not approve of supplemental sign R1-6a on the existing City of Ladue owned sign post, then the City of Brentwood could install the supplemental sign R1-6a to the City of Brentwood owned sign post just south of Sonora Avenue on the east side of McKnight Road.

It was noted that the school crossing sign at the YMCA on Strassner Drive is being changed out to a sign similar sign as the one proposed on McKnight. Alderman Kramer noted that the pavement crossings are faded on Strassner near the YMCA. He suggested cross hatches.

Administrator Akande and PW Director Gummersheimer both confirmed that the standard practice is 2 parallel lines, the suggested markings are no longer used for consistency sake.

Sanitation Routes During School Morning Drop-Off Period

Director of Public Works, Dan Gummersheimer explained that a conflict had occurred when a temporary sanitation driver was filling in and the driver was not familiar with the route and policy to avoid school areas during drop-off times. All drivers have been informed/ reminded to avoid school areas during drop-off times.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation on Cooperative Shared Training Officer

Fire Chief Kurten gave a history of the “Shared Training Officer” program. The “Shared Training Officer” program was jointly created in early 2012 and ran until 2014. In 2012 the Fire Departments of Brentwood, Glendale, Maplewood, and Rock Hill worked to create a program that would provide fire training for all four departments via a single instructor that Glendale Fire Department offered to provide. The instructor was also the Assistant Fire Chief of Glendale Fire Department. The program was very successful in many ways. The actual fire training was received very well by all the employees that participated and we began to see big improvements in joint operations. The training program spawned another very successful outcome, Standard Operating Guidelines, still in operation today and are widely considered or adopted by other fire service agencies in St. Louis. Overall the program worked very well and eventually came to an end when Glendale needed their Assistant Fire Chief back to fill other duties. That is why the program is no longer operating today.

Chief Kurten proposed the idea of bringing back our shared training program along with new partners; Clayton and Maplewood Fire Departments.

Since the original training program shut down all of our departments have provided our employees with the best possible alternatives to this program. We require our Company Officers to conduct training on their respective shifts every week, along with sending employees to classes taught in other departments. They can also sign up for seminars, or view online training classes. These all work well but do not provide hands on and group training that our original shared training program provided.

Another component to fire department training is our Insurance Service Office or ISO rating. We get points for obtaining certain types of training. Training on a “fire ground” is a big opportunity for us to get additional points. Currently we do not have our own dedicated fire training facility, and we are not sending our employees to an approved training center because we lack a dedicated training officer to provide that training at someone else’s facility. We can join with other training agencies who rent their facilities to someone like our group to conduct fire ground training. This is a much less expensive option for us. There are fire departments that provide turnkey training for a fee, but those opportunities are very costly and you not get the year round benefits of having your own training officer.

Our first attempt to find the correct person for this job was to post this opportunity internally amongst the three participating departments. We believe there are some very qualified and talented individuals that may be interested in this job. We also believe that if we have someone

familiar with our current practices and policies, it will help cut the learning curve time. Only if we receive qualified candidates from the internal pool of employees would we then consider one of these employees for the job. That process has yet to be finalized. We have all agreed, if a person promoted to this position is an internal candidate they will not report to their current fire department supervisors at their home department. They will be required to report to a supervisor from another participating fire department.

When the initial program came to an end in 2014 Brentwood Fire Department continued to budget for our portion of the cost for the training officer. We have the funds to participate today if allowed and will budget funding in 2017. We would be paying our portion of the cost for the program on a per head basis. Our cost will be based on 23 employees.

The estimated annual cost for Brentwood's share would be \$49,084.53 beginning in 2017.

The Shared Training Officer is another step in working towards shared services. It is three of the five participating cities in the Command Staff Collaboration group working together to create a better outcome for our staff and residents. We look at this as an opportunity to revive a previously successful training program that will be better than the first, and provides all of our employees with knowledge and experience that benefits our residents and businesses.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Sims to recommend to the Board of Aldermen the Cooperative Shared Training Officer consistent with the recommendation from Chief Kurten for staggered readings to begin on 9/19. Alderman Lochmoeller seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL:** Alderman Kramer – yes; Alderman Lochmoeller – yes; Alderwoman Sims – yes; Alderman Plufka – yes; **MOTION PASSED.**

UPDATES FROM POLICE CHIEF FITZGERALD

General Police Department Updates

Presented year to date statistics. Pretty consistent with 2015 only increases are robberies and stealing. Neighborhood Watch is being restarted and Chief Fitzgerald plans to clarify with residents how to get it started. Eyes on the City program is being promoted as a voluntary program where residents let the police department know that they have a security system. Then when an investigation is underway in an area with cameras, residents can be asked to review footage for any helpful information.

Presentation on Performance Measurements and Calls for Service Data

Report card usage could be expanded to additional areas to promote safety. Corporal promotion for Chris Gibson.

Fiscal Year 16 Overtime Budget Analysis

As of 6/24/16 26,000 of overtime was used. Currently 44,000 has been used thus leaving 44,000 in the budget to get us through the fiscal year. Chief hopes this amount allows for additional weekend overtime during the holidays in the business districts.

Alderman Kramer announced that Ward 4 is planning to promote Neighborhood Watch during National Night Out. Chief Fitzgerald said a publication for citizens would be available for National Night Out.

UPDATES FROM FIRE CHIEF KURTEN

General Fire Department Update

Responded to an extensive 2 alarm fire in Webster Groves with no injuries. The newer truck is back in service. The hiring process to replace the vacancy from when the chief left is being wrapped up.

Presentation on Performance Measurements and Calls for Service Data

Chief explained the emergency reporting system as well as providing an explanation of the weekly report. Mutual aid was also explained.

Code Red update, frequent use during flooding issues has resulted in only 6,000 minutes remaining of the original 18,500. This is enough for 2 more notices. As the City approached the end of minute usage a higher rate per minute is charged. Code Red recommended unlimited minutes for public safety and law enforcement focus. This still allows 18,500 minutes for general information with no additional charge.

Fiscal Year 16 Overtime Budget Analysis

To maintain minimum staff of 2 paramedics and 3 firefighters on trucks overtime has been used consistently all year to cover for longterm absences. So far 76% of the budgeted overtime has been used. This is concerning as we move forward with the presidential debates on 10/9. If budget is exceeded then may need to use total department savings elsewhere within the budget to cover the cost.

Chief asked to educate the board and public on joint command to keep everyone up to date. A plan is being developed for communications and transparency.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Louise Charboneau – 8833 Madge – requested clarity of the shared training officer program. She expects the salary of the position to be distributed per capita. She also requested extra inspections at the picnic for public safety.

Elaine Reed- Garden Ct- expressed concerns of entering and exiting issues onto Brentwood Blvd. St. Louis County has indicated that the distance and number of houses do not justify another traffic light.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Alderwoman Sims and seconded by Alderman Lochmoeller to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

Approved as submitted on the 20th day of October, 2016.

Attest:

Bola Akande, City Administrator