

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE- VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Lochmoeller called the meeting to order at 5:30 and roll was called:
Alderman Lochmoeller – Present Alderwoman Ebeling – Present
Alderman Plufka – Absent Alderwoman Sims – Present
Members that were present represent a quorum.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Approval or Amendment of the Agenda
Agenda was approved by acclamation.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Citizen Comments
None

4. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. City Administrator Report

Bola offered congratulations to Ronnie Cottrell on his appointment by the Board of Aldermen on February 16th as the new Fire Chief, effective February 22, 2021. The current Fire Chief, Terry Kurten, will be retiring with 10 years of service to the City of Brentwood and 40 years of service in the industry.

5. REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND ALDERMEN

A. Chairman Lochmoeller - Ward 3

Offered congratulations to Chief Cottrell and thanks to Chief Kurten for his service to safety and the community.

B. Alderman Plufka - Ward 1

Absent

C. Alderwoman Ebeling - Ward 4

Spoke on behalf of residents in Ward 4 thanking Chief Kurten for his service and looking forward to having Chief Cottrell in the position.

D. Alderwoman Sims - Ward 2

Echoed the sentiment of other members, as she has enjoyed working with Chief Kurten and is excited that the baton has been passed to Chief Cottrell.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Police Department

Traffic Report:

Major Hawkins shared information regarding the Traffic Officer Trial – Presented information on having a dedicated traffic officer for three weeks due to citizen request and concerns. Most of the citations issued were for registrations and speeding violations. The benefit was being able to deploy a person in specific traffic areas and not take away from any other duties, as well as facilitate community interaction and support. Program was a success but not sure they could sustain it for the future – however, it did address the immediate speeding issue and send a community-wide reminder. There was no additional cost for this trial, but it would create a challenge if needed a full-time dedicated officer. Intermittent deployments could be a consideration for the future.

Crime Report:

Chief Spiess cited two incidents where people who were noted as chronic panhandlers were in our area, knocking on doors and aggressively begging. These men were arrested but while this is not a violent crime, it is a challenge to get help for those who are homeless and/or who have mental health issues to get them the services they need.

Carjacking is another crime presenting a challenge. This is a violent crime with weapons. We had an incident this month. One of the two carjackers involved was caught and had prior arrests but was out quickly on bond. The other one got away.

While night-time crime is down right now, but we are preparing for warmer weather. We may look to reach out to other municipalities regarding programs and options they have before bringing the idea of Night-time Task Force to committee for approval, as this can be extremely dangerous. "Fleeing" the law if they run, is a felony, so there is much to consider. Our officers could do it, but there is great risk to consider before a recommendation will be made to the Public Safety committee.

Contract Patrol:

Officers would call out to dispatch (ECDC) during their rides while in each neighborhood. This was done for additional accountability. But starting this January 2021, ECDC management staff now charges for contract patrol calls for service. Since it was not for safety or performance, we have decided not to continue this practice and save the cost, which would be about \$35,000 additional cost added to 2021-22 budget moving forward.

B. Fire Department

Covid -19: No new cases. Manpower is stable, with one still out from August.

Incidents – Busy with fire alarm calls for frozen and broken fire sprinkler water pipes all throughout the area. This is common in sub-zero temps. Also, there was an unusual generator fire on Suburban Tracks at MSD site

New hire – One of the new employees is now leaving and returning to their original employer. Chief Kurten is working on a hiring list to replace this position.

EMS billing with Anthem Insurance – We propose to send a first invoice to residents/patients who we know received payment from Anthem directly that informs the resident they received payment directly from their insurance company and we'll enclose an explanation of benefits (EOB) that our billing company receives from the residents insurance company. The EOB will be a reminder that the resident received direct payment from their insurance company. If we don't receive payment after 30 days, a second reminder invoice would be sent to the resident and if we don't receive payment after an additional 30 days, the account will be closed without payment. We do not believe sending residents to collections would be in the best interest of the city. We plan to add additional information to the Fire page on the city website that further explains this process. Chief would like to offer to insurance company to proceed with billing as described. Alderman Lochmoeller suggested we hold off on this until March to enable alderman Plufka to participate in discussion.

Firefighter turnout gear – Fire department is requesting approval to purchase a portion of turnout gear, which includes 23 sets of coats and pants from a current contract with Metro West Fire Protection District. Department can once again glean savings by purchasing from the current 2016 Metro West contract. The 2016 contract remains in effect until July 2021.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ebeling and seconded by Alderwoman Sims to grant approval to purchase the turnout gear as described and move item forward to the Board of Aldermen for the March 1st Agenda.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

C. Public Works Department

Rosalie Ave. Data Collector:

Put data collector and radar speed limit sign in 8700 block of Rosalie. Will bring data to next meeting.

McKnight Road Speed cushion update:

City of Ladue discussed the pilot program at its Public Works Committee meeting held on February 3, 2021. They have plans to install its traffic data collectors to obtain vehicular information. Ladue did not take action right now, and planned to discuss this topic again at their Public Works Committee meeting scheduled for April 7, 2021 giving them time to investigate further – so project is on hold. We could maybe buy more speed signs if Ladue does not approve.

Street light update:

Public Works received 4 approvals for the newly proposed streetlights in York Village – still awaiting response for 2 more locations. Once they get the easement document forms from the trustees, then Dan can move forward. Hopefully by April the lights will be up and functional. Once easement documents are received, we can move forward.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Minutes from 1.27.21

Minutes were approved by acclamation.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ballistic Vest purchase

Chief Cottrell shared information regarding the equipment and would like approval to move forward with doing an RFP to replace the vests. Vests have a 5-year life. If we do this now, they will have the vests in May.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Ebeling and seconded by Alderwoman Sims to move forward and prepare the RFP for the ballistic vests.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Citizen Comments

None

11. ADJOURN

A. Adjourn

Chairman entertained motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Alderwoman Ebeling and seconded by Alderwoman Sims.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.