



Des Peres Public Safety Department
12325 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO. 63131
November 16, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 16th day of November 2020 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present:

Commissioner Chair	Larry Beermann
Commissioner	Robert Ashcraft
Commissioner.....	Caitie Zimmerman
Commissioner.....	Matt McGrath
Alderman.....	Sean Concagh
Chief.....	Eric Hall
Captain.....	Sean Quinn
Captain.....	Dale Fiala
Support Lieutenant.....	Vicki Severs
Administrative Asst.....	Mónica Llorián

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Chair Beermann opened the meeting. Administrative Asst. Llorián commenced with the roll call. The entire commission was present.

HEAR CITIZENS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to add the approval the minutes of the October 19, 2020, meeting to the agenda. Commissioner Zimmermann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Chief Hall stated that he would like to add three items to Discussion: deer hunting, evidence management, and outsourcing dispatch.

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Alderman Concagh stated that the 2021 Budget is complete and a public hearing will be conducted at the November 24th Board of Alderman meeting with a final vote of the budget at the December 14th Board meeting. He concluded that City Clerk Stacey Mann took a new position with the City of Bridgeton and the city is currently looking to fill the vacancy.

BUDGET

Chief Hall stated that overall the department has 19% of the budget remaining and normal tracking of the budget would be between 12% and 16%. He stated the biggest hit to the department has been overtime due to staffing issues, and the other accounts in the negative are first aid supplies, chemicals, and vehicle maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

Update from Detective Bureau

Chief Hall introduced Lt. John Preuss to provide an update from the detective bureau on cases they have been investigating.

Lt. Preuss stated that our city, along with a majority of cities in St. Louis County, have seen an increase in stealing of vehicles and stealing from vehicles. A high majority of these incidents have dealt with either the victims leaving valuables in an unlocked vehicle or the keys in the vehicles.

He stated that in August, he held a meeting at The Lodge with detectives from surrounding cities to discuss these incidents and compare any similarities. This led to two separate investigations, burglaries committed in the West St. Louis County area and also a group stealing from vehicles.

Lt Preuss stated that through joint investigations with other agencies, and with cooperation from the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, suspects were identified. The main burglary suspect was arrested and interviewed by our Detectives and while he did not admit to the burglary he did make an incriminating statement to our Detective. This case is being reviewed by the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. In addition, a group of multiple subjects were arrested and charged with stealing from vehicles and also a purse snatching incident which occurred at Jimmy Johns.

OLD BUSINESS

(CALEA) Update

Lt. Severs stated the annual maintenance is going well and she is working on the next assessment, which will be due mid-year in 2021. She concluded that the CALEA conference was cancelled due to COVID and they are having virtual classes in its place.

New Hire Update

Chief Hall stated that employment offers have been accepted to two (2) new officers to replace Sgt. Jenkerson and PSO Zuniga who recently retired. Chief Hall added that one officer is from St. Louis County and the other is a former St. Louis City Officer who is currently in the fire academy.

Body Cameras

Capt. Quinn stated that the car cameras will be installed the week of December 15th with training to follow on both the car camera and body camera systems. Chief Hall added that once everything is up and running he will provide the commission with a demonstration of the body cameras.

Commissioner Beermann asked if each officer will have their own camera. Chief Hall stated that yes each officer will have their own personal body camera as well as detectives.

Commissioner McGrath asked if there will be any changes to the policy. Chief Hall stated that there will be a complete revision to the policy and that the department will have select personnel who will complete the train the trainer class to assist if there should even be an issue.

New Schedule Update

Chief Hall thanked the commissioner for their support of implementing the new schedule for the department. He concluded that the new schedule will take effect on December 28th.

DISCUSSION

Chief Hall stated that they have received more applications than expected for the deer hunting. He stated all the applications have preliminary met the ordinance requirements. He concluded that Lt. Preuss has been overseeing the process and that everything is coming together.

Lt. Severs stated that she and Det. Broughton attended a webinar on the new evidence management system that was approved within the 2021 budget. She stated the new evidence program is much simpler to track as each piece of evidence will now have a barcode. She concluded the new program meets all the CALEA requirements and satisfies the recommendation to transition from the current excel based program the department has utilized for the last several years. Commissioner Ashcraft asked when the new program will be in place and Lt. Severs stated most likely the first of the year.

Chief Hall stated he is starting to set up meetings with alternate dispatch agencies to determine what services they can provide and cost comparisons with our current dispatch services. In comparison of services, the department will need to determine if the alternate agency is able to provide some administrative functions, monitor security camera's, and potentially hold prisoners. Chief Hall added that the department is now two (2) dispatchers down with the vacant position and an employee on Family Medical Leave.

Commissioner McGrath asked if there have been any changes in the department due to COVID. Chief Hall stated that the department is currently following the recommendations from the St. Louis County Emergency Operations Center and taking all the necessary precautions. Some of these precautions include limited chairs at the kitchen, limited chairs in the training room to space employees out and also taking a different patrol vehicle at each shift. In addition, employees are now wearing masks in the common areas of the building and when in close proximity to other employees.

Commissioner Ashcraft asked how the department was handling responses to gatherings. Chief Hall stated our officers attempt to educate the groups on the current St. Louis County Executive and Health Department orders. Captain Quinn concluded that complaints are forwarded to the health department who are the enforcement authority and follow up on complaints.

Chief Hall introduced Lt. Ernest Brockman to the commission and mentioned that he will introduce the new employees to the department once they have started.

ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

Mónica Llorián, Admin Asst.
