



Des Peres Public Safety Department
12325 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO. 63131
September 20, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 20th day of September 2021 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present: Commissioner ChairLarry Beermann
CommissionerRobert Ashcraft
Commissioner.....Caitie Zimmerman
Alderman.....Sean Concagh
Chief.....Eric Hall
Support Lieutenant.....Vicki Severs
Administrative Assistant.....Monica Llorian

Not Present:
Commissioner.....Matt McGrath
Captain.....Dale Fiala
Captain.....Sean Quinn

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Chair Beermann opened the meeting. Administrative Asst. Llorian commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Commissioner McGrath, Captain Fiala and Captain Quinn all absent with excuse.

HEAR CITIZENS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Ashcraft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

None

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Alderman Concagh stated that city is currently working on Capital Budget for 2022. He stated that the city was awarded \$1.7 million from the American Rescue Plan and the board will be meeting to determine how these funds would be appropriated. He concluded Shake Shack is proposing a restaurant in the old Hunan Star restaurant location on Manchester Rd.

BUDGET

Chief Hall stated that overall the department budget is at 27.3% remaining and at the end of September 25.7% should be remaining. He stated that overtime, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, and communications are the main accounts which are over budget. In addition, Chief Hall stated he is currently analyzing the overtime account to determine which costs were unexpected such as second paramedic staffing, coverage for military leave, and unexpected training. Chief Hall also wanted to thank the command staff and Detective Bureau for filling in for vacancies to reduce overtime. He added that he will be meeting with the City Administrator to determine if any accounts need adjusted prior to the end of the year and has increased a few accounts in the 2022 operating budget.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Hiring Process Update

Chief Hall stated that two applicants have accepted the department's offers of employment and they are currently going through both the psychological and medical testing. One applicant is a Police Officer – Paramedic from St. Louis City and the second is a Police Officer – Emergency Medical Technician from Warrenton. He added that there are three (3) other candidates on a waiting list for future openings. He concluded by commending department staff who continue to do a lot of recruiting for future candidates.

DISCUSSION

Department Update from Command Staff

Chief Hall presented the commission crime statistics since the beginning of the year. He stated that robbery, burglary and larceny are all down for 2021 compared with the same time of 2020. Chief Hall added that the department has seen an increase in complaints about speeding vehicles in residential areas and have been assigning officers for traffic safety enforcement.

Chief Hall presented the commission a memo with a breakdown of Fire and EMS calls.

Chief Hall stated that the new ambulance has been ordered. He stated that the department received only two (2) bids versus the five (5) bids the department received for the last ambulance in 2012. Chief Hall added that the new ambulance was specified similar to the one purchased in 2012 with only minor changes in suspensions system and compartment arrangement.

Des Peres Night Out

Chief Hall suggested that Des Peres Night Out be postponed to early spring 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and status of cases in St. Louis County. Commissioner Ashcraft stated he sides with postponing Des Peres Night Out event to spring. Alderman Concagh also recommended that the event be put off until 2022.

License Plate Reader Cameras

Chief Hall stated that the license plate reader (LPR) cameras have been ordered and are waiting for installation. He concluded that once the cameras are close to installation there would be training for the staff.

Department K-9 Unit

Chief Hall presented the commission with a memo detailing the status of operations at West County Center and the initial research into a possible K9 unit for the department. He stated the K9 unit would not be a patrol or apprehension dog but a dog trained in gun and explosives detection. The department has had two (2) firearm incidents at the center this year and the ongoing concern from both center management and our officers is firearms being carried inside the center. Chief Hall added that this concept is a long term cost to the city even though he has received some donation officers from the community, and he has received interest from some officers who want to be considered for the position of K-9 handler. He added that the K-9 unit would be a five (5) to eight (8) year commitment for the both the department and the officer. He concluded by asking the commission to review the initial memo and provide him feedback on the overall concept.

Commissioner Ashcraft requested that the daily desk book be formatted the same for all shifts, specifically having the Fire & EMS calls first and the police calls second. Chief Hall stated that will not be an issue and will let the supervisors know of the change.

ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

Mónica Llorián, Administrative Asst.