



Des Peres Public Safety Department  
12325 Manchester Road  
Des Peres, MO. 63131  
May 17, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 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  
Chief.....Eric Hall  
Captain.....Sean Quinn  
Captain.....Dale Fiala  
Lieutenant.....Daniel O'Connor

Not Present: Alderman.....Sean Concagh  
Support Lieutenant.....Vicki Severs  
Administrative Assistant.....Monica Llorian

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Chair Beermann opened the meeting. Chief Hall commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Alderman Concagh, Lt. Severs, and Administrative Assistant Llorian absent with excuse.

**HEAR CITIZENS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to approve the minutes of the Aril 19, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

None

## **ALDERMANIC REPORT**

Chief Hall provided a brief update from the last Board of Alderman meeting where the board discussed employee compensation during the work session. The proposal to be considered by the Board at the May 24, 2021, meeting is a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment and the reinstatement of merit increases. This would all be effective July 1, 2021.

Chief Hall added that the owners of Three Kings Restaurant are proposing to open a Mexican restaurant in the space vacated by Rib City in the Colonnade Center.

## **BUDGET**

### **2021 Budget Update**

Chief Hall stated that at the end of May the budget should have 58.5% remaining and at this point the budget has overall 61.3% remaining. The accounts that are below the 58.5% threshold are overtime (57.52%), Workers Compensation (51.88%), Professional Services (-3.10%), Building Maintenance (37.33%), and Dues/Memberships (42.92%).

Chief Hall added that while the overtime is tracking higher, staff has done a good job being flexible filling shifts and also the command staff and Detective Bureau have assisted with our staffing shortages. The Professional Services account is the payment to West County EMS and Fire for the annexed area around Barrett Station Rd and the cost was above what was budgeted. In reference to Building Maintenance the department incurred additional costs with the installation of large item evidence storage in the garage (that was not originally in the 2021 budget).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **New Hire Update**

Chief Hall wanted to thank the Commission and Mayor and Board of Alderman for the support and approval to hire a 45<sup>th</sup> officer and fill the position that has been left vacant since the retirement of Lt. Willoughby in 2019. The department is in the process of conducting a background investigation on a candidate who is currently an officer with the City of St. Louis and has four (4) years of experience. The department hopes to have the background investigation completed and background interview sometime this week or next and then a final interview with Mr. Harms.

### **New Schedule Update**

Chief Hall provided the Commission with a three (3) schedule review of the new 48-96 schedule. Chief Hall added that the schedule has been positive with the increase in staffing and having the shift work together versus the detached midnights and that the positives found during the research have been a benefit to the department.

Chief Hall did advise that he would like to see the overtime trend lower and the department is looking at any ways to alter the schedule (to reduce the overtime hours).

### **Update – Transition to Kirkwood for Dispatch Services**

Chief Hall stated that the department is in its second month of the transition to Kirkwood for all dispatching services and plan on having an update meeting with Kirkwood to review the progress either this week or next. Chief Hall reviewed the daily staffing of Kirkwood which is three (3) dispatchers around the clock and the addition of a peak time dispatcher from 1pm to 9pm each day. Chief Hall added that the one item he will emphasize with Kirkwood is the necessity for dispatchers to repeat radio traffic from officers to assure that radio traffic is heard by all units. Our department has numerous commercial buildings and on some occasions the radio traffic from an officer will only be heard by dispatch and it is vital to repeat the radio traffic so patrol units can also hear the radio traffic. At this point the department is still learning from Kirkwood and they are learning about us and how we operate.

### **DISCUSSION**

Lt. Daniel O'Connor, A-Shift Shift Commander, provided some insight on the benefits of the current schedule and increase in overall staffing to the commission. Lt. O'Connor added that he has 11 personnel on shift today.

Captain Fiala provide the commission with statistics related to Fire and EMS calls through the month of April in comparison to the last five years. Captain Fiala added that the department has not run a COVID related call for some time.

Chief Hall also relayed that the department received word that the 31 year old patient from the cardiac arrest which occurred two weeks ago was discharged from the hospital. This was an incident where the patient was not breathing and did not have a pulse when our crew arrived.

Chief Hall added that last week the department had two days where vehicles were broken into on the parking lot of West County Center. In these incidents items were left in plain view and suspects shattered the window to gain access. In one incident we had a firearms stolen from a vehicle, also at West County Center.

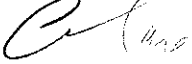
Commissioner McGrath inquired if the department has seen an increase in calls for service to which Chief Hall advised the department has seen normal call volumes, with increases from time to time, such as the vehicle break ins at West County Center. Chief Hall added that officers have been reporting increased foot traffic at the center on the weekends.

Commissioner Ashcraft inquired on the change in the department's weekly report. Chief Hall stated that the Board of Alderman and City Administrator would like to reduce the overall length of the weekly report so the department is changing to a summary report which will not include the day to day calls. Chief Hall advised the commission he planned on sending the daily shift desk book to them in lieu of including an incident summary in the weekly report so that the commission can get the full detail daily and will be able to ask questions or clarifications prior to the next commission meeting.

**ADJOURNEMENT**

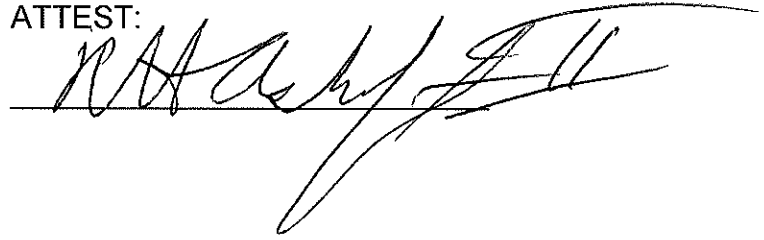
Commissioner McGrath made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:



Eric Hall, Director of Public Safety.

ATTEST:



Bob Ashcraft, Commissioner