



Des Peres Public Safety Department
12325 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO. 63131
July 18, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 18th day of July 2022 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.....	Matt McGrath
Commissioner.....	Caitie Zimmerman
Alderman.....	Sean Concagh
Chief.....	Eric Hall
Captain.....	Dale Fiala
Captain.....	Vicki Severs
Support Lieutenant.....	John Appelbaum
Administrative Assistant.....	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 approve the minutes of the May 16, 2022, meeting. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Election of Chairperson for Public Safety Commission

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to elect Commissioner Beermann as chairperson for the Public Safety Commission. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Alderman Concagh stated that the Board of Alderman had a first reading regarding the medical marijuana dispensary on Manchester Road. He stated that the Board will have a second and final reading at the August meeting. A further discussion was held about the potential for the adult/recreational marijuana with the state wide vote in November.

Alderman Concagh stated there was a public hearing over the changes in the comprehensive plan in anticipation of the proposed Magnolia Ridge apartment complex. He stated that Planning & Zoning still have to determine the changes in the comprehensive plan.

Alderman Concagh added that Steven Braddock, the Park Superintendent, announced his retirement.

BUDGET

Chief Hall stated that he is reviewing the overall budget and will be submitting a mid-year budget adjustment request to the city administrator. He stated that the accounts that are over budget are overtime (mainly due to the second paramedic staffing), vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, and medical supplies. He stated that finance is reviewing the gas and oil account due to the overall fuel cost increases.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Hiring Process Update

Chief Hall stated that the department has two (2) new hires. He stated that Zeus Hernandez is a new Public Service Officer (PSO) with the department and has 14 years of experience with the City of Chesterfield. He stated that Officer Hernandez is finishing the fire academy and only has to complete his paramedic written test.

Chief Hall stated that part-time paramedic Candice Currie will be coming on-board full-time in August. He stated that Candice is coming from Northeast Ambulance Fire and Ambulance District and has prior experience with the City of St. Louis.

Chief Hall stated the PSO Ringeisen just completed paramedic school. He stated PSO Ringeisen has to finish the remaining clinical hours and then test for his paramedic license.

Chief Hall stated that PSO Elzinga is leaving for FM K9 in Michigan for canine/handler training this Sunday, July 24. He stated that canine training is five (5) weeks Monday through Friday with optional training on Sundays.

Update on Canine Unit

Chief Hall stated that he, Captain Severs and PSO Elzinga traveled to Michigan to select the dog for the canine unit. He stated that FM K9 presented them with four (4) possible dogs. He stated that each

dog was tested to see how they performed between obstacles and their ability to lead as well as keeping focus on their handler. He stated that PSO Elzinga then narrowed the dogs to two (2) and both dogs were then taken to a public setting to view their behavior with distractions. In addition, to consulting with the trainers at FM K9, PSO Elzinga then selected the dog.

Chief Hall added that they did make changes to the dog's training. The dog will be trained to detect firearms but also have the ability to track people and articles. Chief Hall stated that the canine vehicle is equipped and ready for use. Chief Hall concluded that he hopes to introduce the dog at one of the September Board of Alderman meetings.

DISCUSSION

Chief Hall stated that early in the day there was an incident at Montgomery Bank regard a few individuals passing bad checks. He stated the three subjects were from Florida and attempted to flee on foot when approached by our officers. Two of the subjects stopped but a third continue to flee and jumped over a fence which dropped approximately 20 feet into a retention area. The subject was later apprehended after a search of the area. During the search we were assisted by our neighboring departments and two canine units. The third suspect ended up sustaining two (2) broken heels as a result of the fall. Charges are being considered by the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Chief Hall stated that there was a meeting on the building study. He stated that there are a few items that need to be fine-tuned and that he will forward the commission the tentative drawings. He advised that the next step in the process is estimating the costs on the preliminary drawings and that may be forwarded to the city in three weeks.

Chief Hall reviewed the house fire on Dunmoor. He stated that the department believes the fire started Thursday July 7th into Friday July 8th and that the fire started in the living room and ultimately burned itself out.

He stated that a neighbor called for the department to check the welfare due to signs of a possible fire and that windows appeared foggy. Upon arrival our officers observed two pieces of soffit hanging down above the front door and while the storm door was closed the main door to the house was slightly opened. Once inside our officers observed obvious signs of a fire with the main damage to the living room but smoke and heat damage visible throughout the house.

Officers observed one female deceased on the couch in the living room and a male deceased in the dining room. Chief Hall stated that the fire did not appear suspicious and while the investigation is continuing, it appears to be caused by an electrical issue. He concluded that the department has been working with the family and they were very grateful, evening bringing lunch to the crew that responded to the scene.

Chief Hall went over the incident that occurred at the Walgreens on Sunday July 10th. He stated that a female employee of the Walgreens called to report she was scratched by a customer. Upon reviewing the injury and video, our officers discovered that a male customer walked past the employee and when he walked past the employee a second time he had a knife in his hand and made a slashing motion toward the left side of the employee's neck.

Chief Hall stated that the subject was arrested a few blocks away on Manchester Rd and had the knife in his possession. The subject had an extensive criminal history and was held on charges with no bond. He concluded that this was a random act and that employee and the suspect did not know each other and the suspect was not from the immediate area.

Chief Hall present the commission crime statistics for the first six (6) months of the last five years. A short discussion was held regarding overall crime statistics and trends for the first six months in relation to the last five years.

Captain Severs presented the commission the May and June Flock LPR (License Plate Reader) hits. She stated that the cameras have been very helpful tracking suspects and vehicles not only in Des Peres but also and investigation tool. She concluded that the department is looking at purchasing an additional camera that would be installed at one of the Ballas Road entrances to the mall. The current camera on Ballas Rd would then be moved to cover the other Ballas Rd entrance to the mall.

Captain Severs presented the commission the open garage door post cards. She stated these post cards are used by the officers to inform residents that their garage door was left open typically during the overnight hours. She stated that the officers either leave the card at the residence or mail the cards. Captain Severs concluded that she hopes that the cards would make residents aware of their vulnerability.

Captain Fiala stated that the department might take possession of the new ambulance at the beginning of 2023. Captain Fiala added that the overall costs of fire trucks have increased and the department is considering both purchase and lease options. Chief Hall added that due to the current and expected price increases, the department is considering placing the order for the next fire truck in advance in hopes of locking in a lower price.

Captain Fiala added that the department has seen an increase in overall emergency medical calls in 2022 and even recently due to the heat.

ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

Mónica Llorián – Administrative Asst.
