



Des Peres Public Safety Department  
12325 Manchester Road  
Des Peres, MO. 63131  
August 15, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present: Commissioner Co-Chair.....Robert Ashcraft  
Commissioner.....Matt McGrath  
Commissioner.....Caitie Zimmerman  
Chief.....Eric Hall  
Captain.....Dale Fiala  
Captain.....Vicki Severs  
Administrative Assistant.....Mónica Llorián

Not Present: Commissioner Chair .....Larry Beermann  
Alderman.....Sean Concagh  
Support Lieutenant.....John Appelbaum

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Co-Chair Ashcraft opened the meeting. Administrative Asst. Llorián commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Commissioner Chair Beermann, Alderman Concagh and Support Lt. Appelbaum were absent with excuse.

**HEAR CITIZENS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner McGrath made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2022, meeting. Commissioner Zimmermann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

None

## **ALDERMANIC REPORT**

Chief Hall stated that at next week's the Board of Alderman will be again considering and a possible second reading regarding the proposed medical marijuana facility on Manchester Road. He stated there was a public hearing at the last meeting which led to some revisions to the proposed ordinance. He stated some of the questions related to traffic concerns, waste disposal, and any changes that will take place in the event the recreational marijuana passed in the fall.

Chief Hall stated that it appears the Hunan Star restaurant will close this week in anticipation of the Shake Shack development on eastbound Manchester Road.

## **BUDGET**

Chief Hall stated that the budget is on course with a projected 33.6% by the end of August. He stated that the items that are over budget are overtime, gas & oil, first aid supplies, and vehicle maintenance. Chief Hall stated that he has request a midyear budget adjustment. However, he stated that the Director of Finance indicated that the department does have a salary savings in 2022 of approximately \$160,000. The accounts will continue to be monitored. He concluded, with the addition of a firefighter-paramedic and two employees close to testing for paramedic certification, the overtime account should show some relief in the last quarter of the year.

Chief Hall presented the commission the tentative 2023 Capital budget. Commissioner Ashcraft asked if the department was still considering the high suppression unit and he believed it would be an asset to the department, especially in responding to vehicle fires. Chief Hall advised that the department was still considering it and are currently planning future truck purchases.

Commissioner McGrath asked if the department has considered the use of drone technology and Chief Hall advised that after the shooting incidents at West County Center the department considered both K-9 unit and drone. A short discussion was held on the overall use of the drone and in areas such as serious auto accidents on the 270, parking lot surveillance at West County Center, and missing persons.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Hiring Process Update**

Chief Hall stated that our newest officer, PSO Zeus Hernandez, started with the department last week. Hernandez has 14 years of law enforcement experience with the City of Chesterfield, is a graduate of the St. Louis County Fire Academy, and is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). In addition, Zeus has completed paramedic school and is awaiting to test for his license.

In addition, EMTP/FF Candice Currie started with the department this week and will be assigned to A-Shift. Candice comes to us from the Northeast Fire & EMS and has prior experience with the City of St. Louis.

Chief Hall stated that our former Lead Dispatcher, Mike Wilson, will also start this with the department as a Records Clerk.

Chief Hall concluded that PSO Rourke will be returning from military leave around February 2023.

**Update on Canine Unit**

Chief Hall stated that PSO Elzinga will be completing the initial K9 training this week with Obe on Friday night. He stated that PSO Elzinga completed his written examination and the final certification with Obe will be completed this Thursday, August 18. Chief Hall added that upon PSO Elzinga’s return there will be training on how the department will work with the dog in the areas of firearm detection and West County Center and also tracking.

**DISCUSSION**

Chief Hall stated that the delivery date of the new ambulance has again been delayed. He stated they were anticipating a delivery date of January 2023 but is now looking like April 2023.

Chief Hall stated that at the August 29<sup>th</sup> Work Session regarding the building improvement renovation plan. He stated that the initial estimate at renovations for the Public Safety building came in over at \$9.7 million dollars.

Chief Hall provided an overview of a memo he is drafting regarding the proposed change of the comprehensive plan that is under consideration by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Chief Hall presented the commission his initial research findings of both Fire/EMS and police calls for service at two apartment complexes near Des Peres: Twin Oaks Apartment at 141 and Big Bend, and Alinea Apartments on Des Peres Rd.

Commissioner McGrath asked if a multi-family building, like the one proposed. would negatively affect department operations. Chief Hall stated that based on this initial research it appeared it would not affect the department operations.

Chief Hall stated that he would send out his findings on this research once finalized and after review by the city administrator.

**ADJOURNEMENT**

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

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Mónica Llorián – Administrative Asst.

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