



Des Peres Public Safety Department
12325 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO. 63131
September 12, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 12th day of September 2023 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present: Commissioner ChairLarry Beermann
Commissioner.....Robert Ashcraft
Commissioner.....Caitie Zimmerman
Chief.....Eric Hall
Captain.....Dale Fiala
Captain.....Vicki Severs
Administrative Assistant.....Mónica Llorián

Not Present: Commissioner.....Matt McGrath
Alderman.....Sean Concagh
Support Lieutenant.....John Appelbaum

ROLL CALL

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

HEAR CITIZENS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman 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 Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Chief Hall stated that the steel and outer walls of the future Shake Shack are up. He stated that there is discussion for rezoning an area near Sam's Club for The Village Bar to build a building for additional storage. Chief Hall added that there is a public hearing at the next Board of Alderman meeting related to the conditional permit for Route 66 Dispensary. He concluded the city administrator and department heads are reviewing the capital improvement budget for next year prior to submittal to the Board of Alderman.

BUDGET

Chief Hall stated the operating budget is trending near normal at 27%. He stated that the biggest issue within the budget has been overtime, specifically the overtime related to paramedic staffing. Chief Hall provided an example that if you back the funds spent on paramedic staffing overtime, the overtime budget would be trending normal. Chief Hall added that the department has been able to add paramedics during the recent hiring processes and the amount spent on paramedic overtime has been reduced over the last three schedules. In addition, the department has two (2) employees that will be testing for their paramedic license and one (1) employee who is currently in paramedic school.

Chief Hall stated that the professional services account is over budget but this is typical due to the payment of the two big contracts, the Kirkwood dispatching contract and the payment to West County EMS & Fire.

Chief Hall stated the department has recently purchased four (4) new Chevrolet Tahoes. He stated that one is currently on patrol and the other three are getting the emergency equipment installed and should be in service soon. He stated that the department will be selling the current department pick-up truck and trading in a Ford Sedan to purchase a new Ford F150 pick-up. Chief Hall stated that the old pickup truck, a 2010 Chevrolet, has a transmission issue that is estimated to cost between \$4,000 and \$6,000 to repair.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Hiring Process Update

Chief Hall stated that instead of only taking applications when there are openings, they are keeping the application process open on the website to allow individuals to apply throughout the year. At this time the department does not have any openings.

DISCUSSION

Chief Hall presented the commission with a mid-year crime summary. He stated that compared to neighboring cities the department is trending well and credited the officers for doing a good preventative job. Commissioner Ashcraft and Commissioner Zimmerman stated the summary was well presented and a good comparison.

Chief Hall stated that he meet with the architect and designer today to go over the furniture selection and the revised design of the kitchen. He added that due to the basement abatement work at City Hall, the IT Director's office has been relocated to the Public Safety building. Chief Hall concluded that the Public Safety Building project will go out to bid in November with an expected construction start date of February 2024.

Chief Hall stated that he met with the Director of Finance to discuss the potential changes to the EMS billing process. He asked the commission to make a recommendation of whether to send those that haven't paid their EMS bill to go to collection be everyone or only nonresidents and that any motion will be also forwarded to the Audit and Finance Commission for review and consideration.

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to consider changes to the EMS billing process where the current policy remains with two (2) billing attempts made within 180 days, after the 180 days, a third billing attempt will be made to non-resident of the City of Des Peres. Commissioner Zimmerman asked for clarification on the motion and after a brief discussion, seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chief Hall stated that Captain Severs has been researching other municipalities' ordinance regarding scooters. In reference to overall complaints regarding scooters, Chief Hall stated that the department received a recent complaint regarding a kid riding too fast in the park. Captain Severs stated that only Frontenac has an ordinance limiting scooter drivers to be 21 years of age and there isn't much regulating scooter use. Commissioner Ashcraft asked if there's any limitation to be riding scooters on a state highway like Manchester Road. Chief Hall concluded that he would look into Missouri State law has regarding scooters and also if one element of the requirement would be that riders need to have a valid driver's license.

Commissioner Ashcraft asked where future meeting will be held during the renovations. Chief Hall stated future meetings could potentially be held at The Lodge.

Captain Fiala presented the commission with latest Fire & EMS runs. He stated that this past month was the highest calls of the year at this point. Chief Hall added that 2022 was the highest number of calls the department has ever had.

Commissioner Ashcraft commented that the desk book lately have been hard to read and didn't provide as much information as in the past, including the date and time. Chief Hall stated that with the new CAD system, the data for the desk book comes in a different format than the previous CAD program.

Chief Hall informed the commission that Regional Justice Information Services (REJIS) has been down for 26 hours due to a breach. He stated that this has halted all aspects of reporting, ticketing and even affected Fire/EMS side of reporting. He concluded that Rejis has been providing updates but it is unknown when the system will come back online.

ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

Mónica Llorián, Administrative Asst.
