



Des Peres Public Safety Department  
12325 Manchester Road  
Des Peres, MO. 63131  
November 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 November 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.....Caitie Zimmerman  
Chief.....Eric Hall  
Captain.....Dale Fiala  
Administrative Assistant.....Mónica Llorián

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

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Chair Beerman opened the meeting. Administrative Asst. Llorián commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Commissioner McGrath, Alderman Concagh, Captain Severs and Support Lt. Appelbaum were absent with excuse.

**HEAR CITIZENS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2022, meeting. Commissioner Zimmermann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

None

## **ALDERMANIC REPORT**

Chief Hall stated the Hunan Star restaurant building has been demolished to make room for Shake Shack restaurant.

Chief Hall stated the Board of Alderman preliminary approved the design for the renovation and expansion of the Public Safety building. The next steps will be to finalize agreements with the architect and move forward to the design phase.

Chief Hall stated the next step in the city hall renovations are also preliminary approved and that once finalize, the city hall project will begin before the public safety building. He added that Public Works has already received approval and will construct a new building at their current site on Des Peres Road. Chief Hall stated the cost for renovation City Hall to be around \$6 million dollars and the renovations to Public Safety to be around \$10 million dollars. He concluded that he will bring a building drawing of the building to the next commission meeting.

## **BUDGET**

Chief Hall stated that the budget is on par with the year. He stated the overtime and vehicle maintenance are the categories most over budget for 2022.

Chief Hall presented the commission with a report tracking overtime. He stated that the majority has been needed due second paramedic staffing, however, he expects this category to reduce in 2023 due to the addition of paramedics.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Ashcraft requested to discuss the department's emergency response protocol and stated that one day in September he observed 2814 driving on Fawn Valley near an intersection with emergency lights activated but no siren. He stated he was concerned of the vehicles not being heard when there are children playing in the street. Chief Hall stated that he would look into calls in that time frame and location.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Hiring Process Update**

Chief Hall introduced PSO Andrew Klosterman to the commission. PSO Klosterman comes to Public Safety with over 14 years' experience as a police and is a paramedic. Chief Hall stated that PSO Klosterman will be attending the fire academy in April of 2023.

Chief Hall stated that PO Rourke should be returning back from military leave in February 2023. He stated that with his return the department would be at full staff. He added that while the department will be at full staffing, the department no longer has an active recruitment list and the department will be continuing to accepting applications.

## **Update on Canine Unit**

PSO Elzinga and Obe were in attendance at the meeting to answer questions from the commission. PSO Elzinga stated that since they have returned from the initial training they been invited to many K9 handler training groups. He stated these group have been very helpful learning from other dogs, practices, and the theory behind the science of being a K9 handler. PSO Elzinga stated that Obe is the only firearm detecting K9 in the area and while they train with other groups, Obe is also trained daily to keep his senses sharp and that he keeps a log of their training.

PSO Elzinga explained how Obe was called to assist the Webster Grove Police Dept. in a shooting investigation regarding a weapon allegedly being fire outside a home. Once Obe arrived, he did not locate any shell casings and it turned out the shooting occurred indoors (versus outdoors as originally reported).

PSO Elzinga stated that Obe's presence at West County Center has been positive through the feedback he has received from both visitors at the center and also employees of the center. He added that it seems obvious that those that do not like the dog tend to move away from Obe's presence.

PSO Elzinga also reviewed the community support and the donations the department has received. He specially mentioned that the vehicle/K9 cage donated from to the department from the Manchester PD has been fantastic in keeping Obe safe and comfortable. Chief Hall added that the new vehicle equipment would cost the department approximately \$5,000 but it was donated by Manchester PD because they no longer had a K9 unit and now use different vehicles. The equipment was originally donated to them for their K9 unit. Chief Hall concluded that a local vet has donated food and all veterinary services for Obe.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chief Hall presented the commission with crime statistics for the last five years as of the end of October for each year. In summary, he stated there has been an increase in robbery incidents with five (5) reported at the end of October 2022. This was an increase over 2021. In addition, overall Burglary incidents are at the lowest for 2022 over the previous four years. He concluded that the majority of all motor vehicle thefts have been with the keys or key fobs being left in the vehicles.

Chief Hall stated that in 2022 the officers of the department have driven more patrol mileage over previous years and he has received positive feedback from residents who have noticed this, especially the overnight and early morning hours when our patrol units are seen on resident's video cameras.

Chief Hall asked the board in regards to the December Public Safety Commission meeting if they want to keep it on December 19<sup>th</sup> or move it to another date. All the present commissioner stated they were okay with keeping it December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Ashcraft stated that he noticed on the deskbook a lot of calls to the Lion's Choice restaurant lately and asked if officers could make more checks into the restaurant. Chief Hall stated that most of the calls were in regard to internal employee issues and that hopeful those issues have been resolved.

**ADJOURNEMENT**

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

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Mónica Llorián – Administrative Asst.

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