

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes.

Police Department - 203 19th Street

December 07, 2023

Call to Order: 1600

Roll Call: Committee members present: Mark Wohlrab, Brent Lenssen, Jerry Kuiken. Others present: Fire Chief Mark Billmire, Assistant Fire Chief Kristie Watson, Fire Support Services Manager Kinsey DeHaan, Police Chief Steve Taylor, Police Support Services Manager Sharon Clark, Anthony Burrows City of Lynden Finance.

Approval of Minutes: October 2023 minutes approved.

Items from the Audience:

None Scheduled

Unscheduled (20 Minutes):

Citizen Cynthia Ripke-Kutsagoitz: Concerned about length of trucks parking on Front St. impeding traffic and making it unsafe. Wanted to recognize Pearl Harbor Day. Would like to continue to see fair and impartial hiring process for open PD position(s)

Committee Items:

Fire Department Items

1. Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023- See attached LFD Report.
2. Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023-- Battalion 76 Rotation Changes
Lynden and N Whatcom have been sharing command level response for over 5 years, with Lynden responding to the county as Battalion and vice versa. Chief VanderVeen at North Whatcom advised they are going through departmental changes and due to staffing issues, has bumped up his Captains to Battalion Chiefs.

Moving forward Chief Watson and Chief Billmire will still be Battalion Chiefs within the city limits of Lynden and North Whatcom will be handling unincorporated areas of Whatcom County. We will give it some time to see how it works out, and when appropriate make changes to the dispatch cards.

3. Public Safety Committee Meeting- 12/07/2023 - See attached proposed Fire Department permit fee schedule for 2024.

4. Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023 - Part-Time Status update -LFD
Both of our recently hired part-timers are participating in a hiring process with other agencies for full time positions.
5. Public Safety Committee Meeting 12/07/2023 – See attached Whatcom County Resolution for Consolidation Memo & Proposed Resolution-LFD
County Council put together a resolution to put together an RFP to do a consolidation study. Will gather input from the 13 districts and 2 municipalities that would be included in any consolidation. The cost of the study is 275,000.00, which will be paid for by the county.

Police Department Items

6. Public Safety PD Stats - December 7, 2023- See Attached report
DUI's are up Patrol is focusing on impaired driving resulting in more DUI arrests. Porch thefts are also up. Tend to trend up during this time of year. The department is actively pursuing persons of interest.

Added Items

Anthony Burrows City of Lynden Finance:

City will be implementing a Unified Fee Schedule which include permit fees. This will allow transparency on fees and make it easier for the public to access them and understand what they are for.

City Departments have been looking at their fee schedules and making adjustments/revisions as needed since the last fee update. Will be asking the department committees to list certain nuances, situations in which fees may be waived. (Non-profits, churches, community center)

Chief Billmire: Unsure when the last time the fee schedule was updated, has not occurred in the 5 years he has been here. Have updated current fees based on comparable cities in Washington State, as well as added fees attached to burn permits and extinguisher training.
Chairman Wohlrab: When it comes to public safety and classes that contribute to community safety, there should not be an attached fee.

Committee Member Brent Lensen: Concern regarding burn permit fee, could we extend it from 1 year to 2-3 years?

Committee Member Wohlrab, would need to be annual permit.

Committee Member Beld: When fees are charged at the PD or Fire Department, where does that money end up?

Anthony Burrows: goes to general fund revenue for staff time, software, anything that goes into facilitating these things.

Lensen: Fee revenues are in the budget as anticipated revenue.

Impact fees were last updated in 2008. The process to revise impact fees is expected to start in 2024, with implementation to begin in 2025.

Good of the Order:

Thank you Jerry Kuiken for your service on the Public Safety Committee and to your service to our community. Citizen Cynthia provided service candles. Jerry Kuiken: It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve our community for the last 36 years.

Adjournment: 1652