

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM October 02, 2020

Call to Order

Roll Call

Members present: Mayor Scott Korthuis and Councilors Mark Wohlrab, Gerald Kuiken and Gary Bode.

Members absent: Councilor Lenssen

Staff present: Chief Steve Taylor, Assistant Chief Thomas Hatley and Support Services Manager Holly Vega.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of September meeting minutes

The approval of the September 3, 2020 meeting minutes was deferred to the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Items from the Audience

None

Unscheduled (20 Minutes)

None

Committee Items

2. Lynden WATCH Update

Councilor Wohlrab stated Lynden WATCH continues to grow and is including Fire Department information encompassing more public safety topics.

3. Public Safety Overtime - August 2020

Assistant Chief Hatley reviewed the overtime hours for the Fire Dept, noting there was many vacation leave and comp time hours to cover. He noted the OT hours in September will be reduced significantly. Additionally, Hatley's leave for wildland fires does not cause any overtime coverage.

Chief Taylor overviewed the overtime for Police, also noting a lot of vacation coverage in addition to BLM protest coverage, extra patrol at the Rotary Park area, and several other categories.

Councilor Kuiken suggested adjusting future budgets to account for the amount of public safety overtime as it is chronically overbudget, although the departments overall are staying reasonably within budget.

Fire Department Items

4. Fire Monthly Report – September 2020

Asst Chief Hatley presented the monthly report for September noting an increase in volunteer hours and reduced OT hours. There were 2 possible COVID cases. Three volunteers currently attending the regional recruit academy will be graduating mid-November as certified firefighters.

The Mutual/Auto Aid agreement was discussed, as 'Aid Given' is typically much greater than 'Aid Received'. Hatley and Wohlrab explained that when we receive mutual aid it usually includes several units and more manpower hours, so it evens out in the end and remains mutually beneficial.

The renovation is on track to begin the first quarter of 2021. A temporary facility is still being finalized along with the construction plans.

Police Department Items

5. Police Monthly Report – September 2020

Chief Taylor presented the monthly report for September noting call volume has remained static with a slight uptick in domestic violence calls, but still within a normal range. Several juvenile arrests were made at the Rotary Park for malicious mischief and drug possession. There were 2 auto theft reports, 1 of which was left unlocked with keys inside. The other auto theft report has questionable details to its validity.

Added Items

6. Councilor Bode mentioned a traffic complaint of speeding vehicles on Aaron Dr at Bryce Park Loop. Public Works will be completing a traffic study to include speed and time of day statistics.
7. Councilor Wohlrab noted several recent publications regarding the Whatcom Sheriff's Office and Bellingham Police referencing how to make complaints and defunding police budgets. He expressed his support of our police department and hopes the City continues to show their support.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.