

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 September 03, 2020

Call to Order

Roll Call

Members present: Mayor Scott Korthuis, Councilors Mark Wohlrab and Brent Lenssen

Members absent: Councilor Gerald Kuiken

Staff present: Chief Mark Billmire, Chief Steve Taylor, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, Lieutenant Russ Martin, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

Approval of Minutes

None

Items from the Audience

None

Committee Items

1. Lynden WATCH Update

Recent posts encouraged citizens to report inappropriate behavior observed at the Rotary Sports Park and surveillance photos of a car prowler suspect.

2. Public Safety Overtime - July 2020

Fire Department overtime comprised mostly of Kelly day and vacation coverage. Police Department overtime comprised mostly of holiday hours, range and firearm qualifications and coverage for protests.

Fire Department Items

3. Station Renovation Update

Chief Billmire advised they are now finalizing the finer details including floor coverings, furniture, etc. They are still looking for a temporary station. Mayor Korthuis brought up the possibility of constructing another building at Public Works to use temporarily for the Fire Dept, and later to be utilized by Public Works. Another option considered was to have a portable building at Station 72; however, the City would need to accommodate for adequate water/sewer utilities.

The current timeline plans to go out for bid by the end of this year, breaking ground in January and final construction at the end of September 2021.

4. Fire Monthly Report - August 2020

Chief Billmire presented the monthly report for August, noting the continued great response time averaging around 4:30 minutes. There were 2 possible COVID patients and a significant barn fire on the Noon Road. A new recruit academy is underway and going really well. Graduates will receive a Firefighter 1 Certificate.

Assistant Chief Hatley was assisting on the Taylor Pond Fire and is now in Portland, expected back tomorrow.

Police Department Items

5. Police Monthly Report - August 2020

Chief Taylor presented the monthly report for August. The 2 new corporals' schedules have been reassigned to night shift to increase the number of hours a supervisor is on duty each day. Speaking on great response times, officers responded to a call involving suspects trying to break into a change machine. Officers arrived while the suspects were still on scene and caught them red handed.

Extra patrol, including plain clothes officers, at the Rotary Sports Park has resulted in several arrests and decreased complaints in the last 2 weeks. Domestic violence calls have remained steady as restrictions are lifting and people are getting back to work. There was a complaint regarding the suspension of fingerprinting and the issuance of new concealed pistol licenses. Chief Taylor will respond to the complainant.

Added Items

6. 5th Medic Unit

Chief Billmire spoke on the status of the 5th medic unit. Station 75 has become a front runner in the proposal, which would be a huge benefit to the community.

7. Statement on Equality

Councilor Lenssen will bring up the statement regarding racial equality at the next council meeting to vote on.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.