

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

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Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Online (Microsoft Teams)

4:00 PM May 06, 2021

Call to Order

Roll Call

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

Staff present: City Administrator Mike Martin, Chief Mark Billmire, Lieutenant Russ Martin, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, and Support Services Manager Holly Vega

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of April 1, 2021 meeting minutes

The minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting were approved.

Items from the Audience

Scheduled

2. Speed limit on Main Street - Yuliya Knibbe

Citizen Yuliya Knibbe has concerns regarding the posted 35 mph speed limit on Main Street, which is an arterial road as well as a residential area. She notes there is a lot of traffic including large semi-trucks traveling quite fast. Councilor Wohlrab advised the committee would review traffic count data and follow up next month.

Committee Items

3. Review on Westview Circle speeding complaint

No new information; not discussed.

4. Front Street safety concern - car vs pedestrian collision

There have been 2 vehicle vs pedestrian accidents at the intersection of Front Street and 7th Street within the last 6 months. The Police Department will review the area to identify any possible visibility issues (trees, signage, etc).

5. Aaron Drive speed complaints

Complaints have been received regarding speeding vehicles on Aaron Drive. Mayor Korthuis has recent traffic count information available, and notes that traffic is generally going the speed limit with a handful of vehicles speeding in excess. Councilor Wohlrab will share the data with the concerned citizens.

6. Crosswalk request at Edgewater and Vinup

A request was made by a citizen to add a crosswalk on Vinup Road at Edgewater Lane. The committee was not inclined to support the request as Edgewater Lane does not line up on both sides of Vinup Road, and there are other busier intersections that do not currently have crosswalks.

7. Public Safety Overtime - March 2021

Fire Department had 264.75 overtime hours in April, and 439 volunteer hours. Typically, the overtime/volunteer ratio is about 50/50 split, so volunteer hours were up.

Police Department had 281 overtime hours in April, 70% in shift coverage for medical/light duty and vacation coverage.

Fire Department Items

8. Fire Monthly Report - April 2021

Chief Billmire presented the monthly report for April. Call volume remained normal, 45 overlapping calls (31%). Fire prevention and inspections continue to increase.

9. AC Recruitment Update

The Assistant Chief position was reposted last Friday through the Daily Dispatch, a fire publication. Chief Billmire will coordinate with Kara Turner upon her return to post through other recruitment sources. No significant changes were made to the job description.

10. Fire Station Renovation Update

The renovation project is still on schedule, working on mechanical, electrical, plumbing and HVAC inside the building. Notice was received that the contractor may be petitioning the City to adjust the bid due to the 200% increase in lumber costs.

11. IAFF Local 106 - Contract Negotiations begin June 1

Contract negotiations begin June 1, 2021. Chief Billmire does not anticipate any big hang-up issues or surprises and hopes the process goes smoothly.

Police Department Items

12. Police Monthly Report

Lieutenant Martin presented the monthly report for April, noting there has been an increase in public order maintenance calls, disorderly subjects, and transients throughout the last year.

13. City of Lynden - Friendship Diversion Services Agreement

Mike Martin overviewed the proposed agreement between the Municipal Court and Friendship Diversion Services for electronic home monitoring services. Judge Lewis requested the City consider the agreement and both the Prosecutor and Public Defender support it. It is less expensive than our current contract and offers a sliding fee scale for lower income. It will require a separate resolution, which Carmichael Clark is aware of.

Added Items

14. COVID cases in Lynden have increased significantly. Mayor Korthuis will update and publish the new data more frequently for public awareness.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.