

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief
(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting - 08/08/2024 Minutes

Police Department - 203 19th Street
4:00 PM August 08, 2024

Call to Order: 1559

Roll Call:

Committee Members Present: Mark Wohlrab, Lee Beld, Gary Vis

Others Present: Police Chief Steve Taylor, Lt. J. Bos, Police Support Services Manager

Sharon Clark, Assistant Fire Chief Kristie Watson, Fire Support Services Manager Kinsey

DeHaan, City Administrator John Williams, Mayor Scott Korthuis, HR Director Kari Heeringa

Approval of Minutes: June minutes moved to September meeting for approval

Items from the Audience

None Scheduled

Unscheduled (20 Minutes)

Audience members may address the Committee on any issue other than those scheduled for a public hearing or those on which the public hearing has been closed. Prior to commenting please state your name, address, and topic. Please keep comments under 4 minutes.

Committee Items

1. Neighborhood Electric Vehicles – State law that they are allowed. As opposed to previous RCW's pertaining to UTVS/ATV's that are prohibited unless specifically allowed by the jurisdiction, NEV's are allowed unless specifically prohibited by the jurisdiction. NEV's run off lithium batteries, are not required to be compliant with any safety standards aside from needing to have safety signals and mirrors. Required to be licensed/insured and operated by a licensed driver.
 - From an LEO standpoint if we are going to allow one (NEV's) we should allow both (NEV's & UTV's). Otherwise, we should prohibit both.
 - Would like to find some sample ordinances from communities that both prohibit and allow use, and those that allow it what the negatives and positives have been.
 - Will resume discussions at the meeting in September.

Fire Department Items:

1. LFD July 2024 Report
 - staffing discussion pertaining to instances of Aid given/Aid received, where mutual aid responds from, possible delays in response to citizens, and shift coverage.

- Would like to have a break down of which agencies we are providing mutual aid to and how often.
 - Would like to see how often we are relying on receiving aid when we are out of station providing mutual aid to other mutual aid partners.
2. 2025 Budget Requests
 - Mayor Korthuis will be getting an update from Chief Billmire pertaining to SAFER grant application status.
 3. Applied for and received at \$25,000.00 FIIRE grant through L&N. Will use grant funds to purchase lightweight bunker gear, similar to wildland gear. This will reduce carcinogen exposure, heat exposure, as well as decrease musculoskeletal strain on our crews on a variety of different calls we currently must utilize full bunker gear for.

Police Department Items

3. Public Safety Stats - July 2024
2025 Budget Requests
Staffing Updates – Still down one Lt., all four Cpl. positions have been filled. In anticipation of upcoming vacancies, we have one lateral applicant through background and polygraph. Would like to move forward with getting his medical and psychological testing done, however cannot do that without extending a conditional offer. To do so, would require a budget amendment prior to the end of the year due to a previously expected vacancy remaining filled for a bit longer. Would like to fill the upcoming vacancy with the current applicant in background to backfill the 19th position once it comes open, however, to keep this applicant would ask for the budget amendment create the 20th position in 2024. The departments 2025 budget request is a 20th FTE. Asking to move the process forward a bit to secure this employee.

Added Items- Committee Member Wohlrab had questions about the process of hiring the new Fire chief.

HR Director Kari Heeringa provided following timeline:

June 10th – Application opened

July 15th -First Review date: four individuals met minimum

July 31st – Held Interviews of four candidates, from there three individuals moved forward to the meet and greet.

August 13th- Final Interviews with HR director, Chief Carlson with Everson, and City Administrator

Adjournment: 1727

Submitted by

Approved by