

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

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Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Online (Microsoft Teams)

4:00 PM January 07, 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, Chief Steve Taylor, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, Lieutenant Russ Martin, Support Service Managers Holly Vega and Sarah Silvas.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of December meeting minutes

The minutes from the December 3, 2020 meeting were approved.

Items from the Audience

None

Unscheduled (20 Minutes)

None

Committee Items

2. Status of Fire Dept labor dispute/grievance/ULP

Additional mediation is scheduled for later this month.

3. Status of Police Dept issue pertaining to holiday pay changes

Arbitration is scheduled for later this month.

4. The process of how Council waived the COVID coverage benefits for the PD and FD

Early in 2020 a federal program became available to give employees access to supplemental leave for reasons specifically related to COVID. The program also included the ability to exclude first responders. In April, City Council approved a motion to exclude first responders, with the reasoning that as a smaller organization having even one first responder on extended leave would have a significant impact to staffing levels. There would be a financial burden to backfill with overtime and could also leave the community vulnerable with less first responders available. The City did create a new program to advance sick leave to employees if needed for COVID related reasons.

5. Public Safety Overtime - November 2020

Chief Taylor noted that 76% of the 329 overtime hours for Police in November were a result of the three holidays, leaving 79 hours of actual overtime.

Chief Billmire noted there were 190 overtime hours in November for the Fire Dept, and also 379 volunteer hours.

Fire Department Items

6. Assistant Chief Recruitment Update

Five applications were received for the Assistant Chief position by the closing date, none of which were well qualified. Changes have since been made to the job description and announcement with more emphasis on the training officer role rather than the fire marshal portion. The new announcement will go out this week and run for another month with interviews scheduled later in February.

7. Fire Station Renovation Update

Final moving is today and tomorrow. January 8th will be the first night in the temporary station. The construction company will be given keys on January 11th. Administrative offices will be located at the City Annex.

8. Fire Monthly Report - December 2020

Chief Billmire presented the monthly report for December, noting it was a busy month. There were 41 overlapping calls, increased response time due to 'Aid Given' traveling farther out. Lynden's Engine-75 was the 2nd on-scene to the train derailment near Custer and remained on-scene until approximately 4:30pm.

Councilor Lenssen inquired how often staff are tested for COVID. Chief Billmire said that staff is monitored daily for temperature, etc., but only tested when they feel like they have had possible exposure. Chief Taylor noted the same for Police staff.

Police Department Items

9. Police Monthly Report - December 2020

Chief Taylor overviewed the December monthly report. There was an increase in malicious mischief reports in which vehicle windows were broken but nothing was stolen. Detective Torok is gathering and reviewing camera footage.

The remaining cars ordered in 2020 have arrived; decals and radio equipment are being installed. Three new patrol vehicles and one administrative vehicle have been purchased in 2020 to replace aging vehicles. Two surplus vehicles were taken to auction as well.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.