

# CITY OF LYNDEN

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



### **Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

Online (Microsoft Teams)

4:00 PM June 10, 2021

#### **Call to Order**

#### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Councilors Mark Wohlrab, Brent Lenssen and Gerald Kuiken

Members Absent: Mayor Scott Korhuis

Staff Present: City Administrator Mike Martin, Chief Mark Billmire, Chief Steve Taylor, HR Manager Kim Clemons and Support Services Manager Holly Vega

#### **Approval of Minutes**

##### **1. Approval of May 6, 2021 meeting minutes**

The minutes from the May 6, 2021 meeting were approved.

#### **Committee Items**

##### **2. Public Safety Overtime - May 2021**

Fire Dept had 226 overtime hours in May, mostly comprised of Kelly and vacation days. The summer season will likely show an increase in OT due to vacation coverage. There were also 438 volunteer hours in May. No time loss due to COVID/quarantine sick leave.

Police Dept had 325 overtime hours in May, about half of which was from the Memorial Day holiday and quarterly range training. Approximately 150 hours was shift coverage for vacation leave, etc. Officer Fiksdal is back to full duty after being on extended medical leave and light duty.

#### **Fire Department Items**

##### **3. Fire Monthly Report - May 2021**

Chief Billmire presented the monthly report for May. Business inspections have resumed as well as hydrostatic testing at some of the larger construction projects. Response time increased by approximately 30 seconds; Chief Billmire will monitor. The number of Aid given was 17, and Aid received was 6, 1 in which no Lynden units were available. There was an uptick in COVID watch responses (6), corresponding to the spike in Lynden cases.

##### **4. Assistant Chief Recruitment Update**

Skype interviews were held last week for 4 applicants, now narrowed down to 2 out of state candidates. In person panel interviews are scheduled for next Wednesday.

**5. Fire Station Renovation Update**

The renovation project is making good progress. Insulation and drywall should be installed in the next few weeks.

**6. Resolution No. 1038 - Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Pay**

The volunteer firefighters petitioned the city for a pay increase and reclassification. Upon further research it was discovered that volunteers cannot be compensated by the hour. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires volunteer wages to be stipend and not exceed 20% of a full-time firefighter. Resolution No. 1038 will be presented at the next council meeting and will put the city in compliance with FLSA regulations.

**7. 2021 Northwest Washington Fair – Staffing**

Staffing will be similar to past years with 3 EMTs at the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid booth plus the 2 nights of the rodeo. Hours will be offered to the volunteers first, then career staff.

**Police Department Items**

**8. Legislative changes affecting police procedures**

Chief Taylor will be meeting with the patrol squads over the next week to review and answer questions on the recent legislative changes affecting police procedures. He provided a brief overview of a few significant items.

House Bill 1054 establishes requirements for police tactics and equipment, including limitations on situations when vehicle pursuits are allowable. House Bill 1310 concerning permissible uses of force, will most notably change the way officers handle someone in a mental health crisis. If a person is not an imminent threat to anyone other than themselves, officers must have probable cause to arrest that person of a crime to take them into custody.

Custodial statements are now required to be recorded; however, LPD is already set up to do this with the installation of the video surveillance system installed last year. One significant change to take effect in January 2022 is the requirement to provide juveniles access to an attorney before being interviewed. The requirement cannot be waived by the juvenile nor his/her legal guardian/parent.

**9. Police Monthly Report - May 2021**

Chief Taylor presented the monthly report for May, noting domestic violence calls were up again, which have been up and down over the past year.

The traffic data from the Westview neighborhood study showed an overwhelming majority of drivers in compliance with the speed limit. There were 4 vehicles on Westview Circle that exceeded 35 mph, and 1 on Westview Place, although average speed was 17.8 mph.

### **Added Items**

10. Public Works received a request for a speed bump on Aaron Drive. Councilor Kuiken suggested putting a traffic counter to monitor traffic, although now that school is out for the summer it may not reflect the citizen's concern.
11. Councilor Lenssen inquired if there is a limit on the length of cars in the diagonal parking downtown. Chief Taylor will look at the City Code for clarification.
12. The traffic counters have been out on Main Street, but the data has not been collected yet.
13. Regarding the intersection at Front St and 7<sup>th</sup> St, Chief Taylor noted he and the Lieutenants have been out at the intersection at different times of the day from all 4 directions and did not find any structural defects or unsafe conditions.
14. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will resume in person on July 1, 2021.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.