



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the September 21, 2022, Meeting**

Members present: Barbara Bitetto (Chair), Patrick Reed, and Pat Cole

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke and Chief Jon Parkinson

Others present: None.

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm

I) Monthly Activity Reports & Department Updates – Fire, Chief Parkinson

Chief Parkinson provided his monthly report to committee members to include calls for service by station, by apparatus, call response times by service area and year over year comparisons.

On 9/21 we received word that East Pierce was awarded a SAFER Grant. In summary, this grant will fund all wages and benefits for 12 new firefighters for 3 years. This is 100% grant funding with no local match required. The total grant award is \$5,267,328.

The EPFR open house is returning to action on Saturday, October 1st - from 1 pm to 4 pm at their headquarters station. This will be their first open house since 2019.

East Pierce launched their new department website, this is a much-needed update that will be easier to navigate by computer and mobile device.

Our newest seven firefighters (class 2022-2) began their fire academy on 9/6/22 at Central Pierce Station #60. They will hit the streets in early 2023.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on 8/22 @ 130 pm with a good turnout. Dirt work has begun on the site and things are moving forward. The new fire boat was placed into service on Lake Tapps on August 30th.

Chief Parkinson will be meeting with the finance committee in early October to review the first draft of the 2023 operating budget.

DC Mack is spearheading East Pierce Fire efforts to coordinate volunteers to assist the Nick of Time Foundation medical screening at Sumner High School on Wednesday, October 5th.

II) Monthly Activity Reports & Department Updates – Police, Chief Moericke

Chief Moericke provided the committee with department statistics for August 2022. Overall activity levels were consistent with previous months.

Our newest recruit officer graduated CJTC on September 8, 2022, and is now working with a senior officer in field training. We received a new 2022 Ford Interceptor police replacement vehicle. Due to the significant delay in vehicle production, our fleet department went ahead and ordered 4 replacement vehicles now that are due to arrive in June 2023. We currently have an entry level officer

in final background. According to the CJTC website, it looks like there may not be an available academy spot until April 2023 which is a significant delay. Chief Moericke will be asking the Mayor and City Administer to authorize additional hiring incentives.

National Coffee with a Cop is on October 5th and we will be hosting an event at Gravity Coffee (next to Winco Foods) from 0900-1000.

III) Action Items: None currently.

IV) Discussion Items:

The Pierce County DEM equipment selection committee approved our revised grant application to purchase an Unmanned Arial System (drone). Chief was notified by phone of the approval, official grant documents will be forthcoming and will require council action.

In the coming months, Chief will be seeking council approval of amendments to the current Interlocal Agreement for the Tactical Response Team. The City of DuPont recently joined the interlocal that will require ratification and there are a few other needed updates to the agreement.

Yakima County Corrections recently sent notification of their intent to terminate our jail services agreement at the end of 2022. We periodically use Yakima County to house long-term defendants serving a court commitment (sentence). Chief will be looking at other inmate housing options.

Pierce County Jail is experiencing severe staffing shortages which will impact their ability to house inmates for the foreseeable future. They anticipate only being able to staff the jail at ¼ of its capacity which may mean releasing more defendants held pending trial. This will undoubtably impact community safety in Pierce County and our ability to book on Sumner municipal charges.

V) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:13 pm.

Next meeting will be October 19, 2022, at 5:30 in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall or via Zoom.