



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the March 15, 2023, Meeting**

Members present: Barbara Bitetto (Chair), Pat Cole, and Charla Neuman

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke and Deputy City Attorney Maili Barber

Others present: None.

Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm

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

Chief Parkinson was absent this meeting, but a copy of his monthly activity report was posted to Civic Clerk for members to review.

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

Chief Moericke discussed with the committee department statistics for February 2023. Overall activity levels were down slightly from January.

Personnel: ACO Eryn Hendrix is currently at the ACO Academy at CJTC in Burien. She is due to graduate on Friday March 24th at 1 PM. The Sumner Civil Service Commission certified two hiring lists this week for one exceptional hire candidate and two entry level candidates. We currently have one vacancy due to Detective Nikolao's recent retirement. These lists will likely be exhausted quickly and the need for more recruiting exists to fill anticipated vacancies. With that, Officer Miller recently gave official notice of his intent to retire June 30, 2023.

Expanded implementation of body worn cameras by ACO's, Admin, and Detectives is expected to occur on April 6th following training on their use. There have been a few delays due to IT issues, equipment returns, and scheduling training when everyone was available. The vendor for IA Pro will be on-site at Sumner PD to install, configure, and provide user training from March 28-30.

III) Action Items:

Sunnyside Interlocal Agreement - Chief presented a resolution and interlocal agreement for inmate housing with the City of Sunnyside, WA. The City currently lacks adequate low-cost jail contracts for long-term (more than 30 days) court commits. Previously the city has had jail contracts in central Washington in Wapato and Yakima County Corrections for court commit sentences. However, those contracts are no longer available. Sunnyside operates a 97-bed medium security misdemeanor jail that provides regional jail services as well as a number of contracts with western Washington cities. Sunnyside provides all the usual jail services and provides transportation of the inmates to and from Sunnyside, all at a substantial cost savings compared to our existing jail contracts. The committee gave a do pass to forward the resolution to the April 3rd RCM on the consent agenda.

Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 SMC Animal Control – Deputy City Attorney Maili Barber presented Ordinance 2852 that would repeal SMC 6.12 relating to the keeping of Pigs that was codified into law in 1938 and update it by adding a new section that addresses the permitted allowance

and maintenance of farm animals (including pigs), livestock, and poultry based on the size of the parcel by adding SMC 6.18. This ordinance was at the request of Metro Animal Services to provide clearer rules and regulations. The committee gave the ordinance a do pass to move out of committee and to the full council as a new business item April 3rd RCM.

IV) Discussion Items:

In response to a citizen's recent public comment regarding Sumner's Code related to animals "at large", specifically the civil penalty for allowing cats to be at large, the committee revisited the requirement. Currently the SMC prohibits, by declaring it a nuisance, any animal to run at large in the city. The ordinance applies to all animals, dogs, cats, horses, mules, hogs, goats, etc. to protect the rights, peace and repose, of non-pet owners against trespass of other owners animals on their property. Laws such as these often strive to balance the competing interests of pet owners and non-pet owners. Chief Moericke provided some context to the current citizen's complaint as well as some context to the rationale of the ordinance. Stray cats represent the greatest population of animals turned into the shelter as well as calls for animals struck by vehicles. Having no regulation on cats being confined leads to overpopulation by uncontrol breeding and cats trespassing on others property with no recourse. Issuing civil infractions for cats being at large is extremely rare and used only as a last resort for when other means are not effective. Deputy City Attorney Barber also highlighted other public policy considerations for maintaining the requirement. After discussion, the committee did not recommend any changes to the existing ordinance at this time.

V) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:19 PM.

Next meeting will be April 19, 2023, at 5:30 in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall or remotely via Teams.