



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the July 19, 2023, Meeting**

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

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

Others present: None.

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

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

Chief Parkinson presented his monthly Chief's report for June and also included fire responses from June 28 to July 10. During that period, East Pierce responded to 50 fires, 13 of which were suspected to be related to fireworks as the cause. This was an above average number of fires due to the red flag conditions of high heat and low humidity. Chief Parkinson urged the committee to consider adopting emergency ban language similar to what the Pierce County Council adopted in 2021 that would authorize the PC Fire Marshal with concurrence by the PC Executive to declare an emergency fireworks ban if conditions meet certain matrix related to fire conditions. The environmental conditions this year came close, but did not meet the criteria and no county-wide ban was declared. Edgewood and Bonney Lake are considering adopting similar ordinances.

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

Chief Moericke discussed with the committee department statistics for May and June 2023. Overall activity levels were steady month over month for the year. Metro Animal Services have seen increases in visitors, volunteer hours, animal intakes and adoptions. Our shelter is currently near capacity as are all local shelters and rescue organizations. Metro had free adoptions for a week that was sponsored by FAYMAS and was able to adopt out 5 dogs that had been available for adoption for over a month. From June 28 to July 5 South Sound 911 only logged 4 fireworks related phone calls for Sumner and there were 5 fireworks related on-line reports. Of those, police were dispatched to only 3 events. These complaint numbers are unusually low for Sumner.

Personnel: Officer Kaylor was terminated on July 13 and Sgt. Kurle has been placed on admin leave pending resolution of a disciplinary matter. CSO Miller (High) has been given a conditional offer and has her final assessments scheduled. Likewise, another entry level candidate Marcello Cuellar has also been given a conditional offer and will be having his medical and psych in the coming week. We had additional interviews yesterday with only one candidate passing and we have two entry level applicants still in background.

III) Action Items:

Sumner-Bonney Lake SRO Interlocal Agreement – Chief Moericke presented a resolution and interlocal agreement with the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District for school resource officer (SRO). The agreement would replace the current SRO agreement that expired in June. The new

agreement would be for 3-years under the same terms as the expired agreement. The committee gave a do pass to forward the resolution and agreement to the August 7th RCM on the consent agenda.

Ordinance 2857 Amending and repealing SMC Chapter 9.16 “Drugs” and 9.20 “Drug Paraphernalia” – Deputy City Attorney Maili Barber presented Ordinance 2857 that would repeal and replace certain sections of SMC 9.16 and 9.20 due new state laws passed in special session related to drug possession, public use, and barring local regulation of drug paraphernalia. The ordinance adopts the state law on drug possession and public use as a gross misdemeanor. The committee gave the ordinance a do pass to move out of committee and to the full council as a new business item on the August 7th RCM.

IV) Discussion Items:

None

V) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:14 PM.

Next meeting will be August 16, 2023, at 5:30 in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall or remotely via Teams.