



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the February 17, 2021, Meeting**

Members present: Curt Brown, Barbara Bitetto, and Josh Hamilton

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke, and Chief Bud Backer

Others present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

I) Selection of new committee chair. Councilmember Brown nominated Councilmember Bitetto as chair and Councilmember Hamilton seconded. Motion carried.

II) Monthly Activity Reports – Fire, Chief Backer

EPFR has a new reports management system and is still working out a few “bugs”. January was 8.9% over the same period last year. Mostly due to the windstorm on January 13th. We ran 80 alarms that day alone.

III) Monthly Activity Reports – Police, Chief Moericke

Chief Moericke provided the committee with police the activity report for January as well as the yearend report for 2020. Activity was down due to several officers off on medical leave that left staffing at minimum levels at times and the on-going effects of Covid-19.

IV) Department Updates - Both

Fire: We are training our trainers on driving and operating the new ladder truck. Much of that is being done at the fairgrounds to have enough open space to train safely. This group will then train the other members who will be assigned to the ladder truck. Our next two fire engines are now being built at Pierce Manufacturing and should be here in May.

We have posted for a recruitment of a new Deputy Chief, as our current Deputy Chief Jon Parkinson will be stepping in to replace me as Fire Chief. We will also be posting soon, seeking interested parties to fill a fire commission vacancy. Commissioner Dale Mitchell stepped down after serving in that role for 32 years. He and his wife are relocating so he no longer meets the residency requirement. Not many elected officials serve for that many years. He has been a steady leader for our department, and the Pierce County Fire Commissioners Association, and the Washington Fire Commissioners Association as well. In recognition of his 32 years of service to Edgewood and EPFR, the Board Resolved to name the new fire station in Edgewood the Dale Mitchell Fire Station 118 in his honor.

Police: Chief Moericke updated the committee members on several upcoming initiatives as well on major events for the department. The council authorized police officer position has been filled, the new officer, Joseph Perez-Resop, will begin March 1st. A part-time animal care technician unexpectedly resigned, so we are in the process of filling that position. WSP recently concluded an ACCESS audit of

the department. There were a few minor code use issues, but those issues have been resolved and the findings should be issued in a bout a month from now. The department will be seeking reaccreditation in 2021, with a mock assessment the last week of February and a final assessment sometime in March or April. The department will be holding its annual department training and awards meeting next week via Zoom. In addition to the usual awards this year we will be bestowing two live saving awards.

Some of the upcoming initiatives that will be coming before the council were discussed. On March 8th study session we will be discussing the implementation of police body cams. The city is working at updating our unlawful race attendance code and our stay out of race areas codes and will bring a draft ordinance to the next public safety meeting for approval and full council on April 5. On April 12th the city will give a presentation to the council regarding our current homeless/transient issues. The City is also amending its interlocal agreement with the school district for SRO due to the effects of Covid-19.

V) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 5:57

Next meeting will be March 17, 2021 via Zoom.