



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the August 21, 2024, Meeting**

Members present: Barbara Bitetto (Chair), Carla Bowman, Pat Clerget

Staff present: Police Chief Brad Moericke, EPFR Chief Jon Parkinson

Others present: None.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

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

Chief Parkinson presented the monthly chief's report for July. Chief noted only 3 fireworks incidents were reported to WSP (within the City of Sumner limits); they were all minor fire-related incidents. 13 recruits graduated from the academy in mid-August and will be going "on shift" soon. 7 new recruits will be starting the fire academy in early September. The headquarters station is nearing completion and should be "substantially" complete by September with an anticipated move in date in November.

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

Chief Moericke discussed with the committee department statistics for July 2024. Officer initiated activity exceeded dispatched call activity demonstrating that officers are out being proactive.

We currently have 2 vacant police officer positions with the recent termination of Officer Mendenhall. Last week was the first round of officer applicant interviews with more interviews scheduled in the coming weeks. Looks like several promising candidates, several of which have been on ride-alongs.

III) Action Items:

Chief Moericke presented Resolution 1697 and an interlocal agreement to provide specialized law enforcement services by Pierce County. This agreement would replace an existing agreement for services we currently have in place, adopted in 2020. The agreement would allow Pierce County Sheriff to provide specialized services such as air support, dive team, bomb team, and forensics and investigative support to Sumner (PD) either for free or on a reimbursement basis. These services are beyond our own capabilities and would greatly enhance our response capabilities. The committee gave a unanimous "do pass" as a future consent item (September 3).

Chief Moericke presented an addendum to the master interlocal agreement for multijurisdictional SWAT team. This addendum would allow Central Pierce Fire & Rescue to add tactical medics to the team. Central Pierce will cover all associated costs and only asked that each party to the agreement indemnify them for their participation. This agreement/addendum would provide mutual indemnification. The committee unanimously gave a "do pass" as a future council consent item.

IV) Discussion Items:

Due to a special budget workshop scheduled during our September PS Committee meeting date/time, the committee agreed to cancel the September meeting.

Councilmember Bowman wanted to discuss the current state of homelessness now that the law has changed. She was grateful that a local transient had located outside of downtown park benches but has observed others in the community. I gave an over all assessment on what we are experiencing. Since the WA Sup Court had reversed the Grants Pass case, local cities (including Sumner) are now actively enforcing camping bans. This has generally caused transients to relocate or move between adjacent cities. This phenomenon will likely continue until the weather cools and more people find indoor sheltering. We are also seeing an uptick in RV camping on City streets and lots. Officers continue to address this problem.

V) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 4:55 PM.

Next meeting will be October 16, 2024, at 4:00 pm in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall or remotely via Teams.