



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
Zoom
March 17, 2021 5:00 PM**

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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT - FIRE

No monthly stat report. Implementation of new RMS creating a different reporting style that does not align with previous methodology for reporting numbers by city. Our overall call volume seems to be returning to pre-Pandemic levels. Discussed the large debris (mattress) fire at the north end of the city.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT - POLICE

Chief Moericke provided the committee with police the activity report for February. As expected, activity was down due to the short month and the on-going effects of Covid-19 on call volumes.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Fire: Covid update, still experiencing covid impacts on staff and quarantine requirements. Providing medic unit standby at vaccination events in our area. Discussed increased vaccine access for the public. Currently have 9 recruit firefighters working their way through the fire academy.

Bond projects update:

1. 2 engines at mid build
2. Ladder training in progress
3. Sta 118 (Edgewood) may go to bid end of April
4. Sta 111 (Headquarters) may go to bid end of June

Board vacancy announced last month. Six applications being considered by the Board. Intend to swear in a new commissioner in May. Strategic Plan in progress. Stakeholder input will be part of this process, and City of Sumner will have the opportunity to let us know how we are doing and how we can better serve the community. Deputy Chief recruitment still open. Expect to have replacement on board by July 1. Chief Backer will be retiring in mid-June.

Police: We have two employees at Metro in quarantine due to Covid exposure. Final Accreditation assessment is next week (March 23-25). Several PD employees scheduled to get Covid vaccines this week.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MUNICIPAL CODES

The first proposed amendments discussed relates to Chapter 9.20 of the SMC prohibition against drug paraphernalia. This text change was needed to comply with a recent WA Supreme Court case decision in State v. Blake. Proposed change adds a “knowledge” requirement to the possession of drug paraphernalia and also removes the mandatory minimum fine and 1 day jail sentence requirements in the current code.

The second proposed amendment relates only to SMC 9.16.045 our current prohibition on the use or possession of a dangerous drug. This change was also precipitated by the recent court decision referenced above and adds a “knowingly” element. The change also removes a current section of the code relating to sale and distribution of a dangerous drug as we believe this unlawful activity is adequately addressed in the felony drug statutes in RCW 69.50.

The third proposed amendments relate to SMC 9.46 and 9.47 respectively. These proposed amendments would expand the definition of an “unlawful race event” and also expand designated “no racing zones” within the city. It also eliminates the need for the city to prove someone knew they were in a no racing zone to be charged with unlawful race attendance. These changes are needed to better address the increase in racing activity, to better protect large industrial properties, and to address the types of non-traditional racing activity occurring (drifting/hooning).

The last proposed amendment discussed was a proposed change to SMC 10.68.020 relating to automobile impounds. This amendment would allow (not mandate) a police officer to impound a vehicle if the driver was arrested for racing/reckless driving (RCW 46.61.500).

All four proposed ordinances were passed unanimously by committee members and moved on to the April 5th regular council meeting for adoption.

1. Proposed Drug Code Updates

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2. Proposed amendments to SMC 9.46 & 9.47

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3. Amendment to SMC 10.68.020

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 5:50

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. For individuals who may require special accommodations, please contact the City Clerk at (253) 299-5590, 24 hours in advance.