



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the May 19, 2021, Meeting**

Members present: Barbara Bitetto (Chair), Josh Hamilton, and Patrick Reed (alternate)

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke, Chief Jon Parkinson, ACA Christy Palmer

Others present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chair Bitetto

I) Monthly Activity Reports – Fire, Chief Parkinson

Chief Parkinson provided the members with the April monthly Chief's report. Call response volumes seem to be near pre-pandemic levels. Sumner Station #113 continues to be one of the more higher volume stations due to the presence of the ladder truck and medic unit.

II) Monthly Activity Reports – Police, Chief Moericke

Chief Moericke provided the committee with police the activity report for April. Activity for April was consistent with prior months, despite being down two officers. There was a slight uptick in traffic stops due to a distracted driving emphasis in April.

III) Department Updates - Both

Fire: Chief Parkinson report on the board of fire commissioners actions this week; Jon was sworn in as new fire chief. Former Chief Bud Backer will remain on until June 18th to assist in the transition. Cynthia Wernet of Edgewood was sworn in as the new fire commissioner. A conditional offer of employment was extended to Bill Mack for the Deputy Fire Chief position with an anticipated start date of July 1. The 9 recruit firefighters have graduated the fire academy and will be assigned to shifts starting next month. Training is almost complete on the new ladder truck and it should be in-service soon. The Edgewood station #118 went out to bid for construction. Chief Parkinson reminded the committee of the two levy matters going on the August ballot: EMS and fire levy lift.

Police: Chief Moericke updated the committee that we have one officer out on extended medical due to a non-job-related eye injury. ACO supervisor Thawsh underwent knee surgery and will be out an anticipated 8 weeks. Deputy Chief Engel announce his retirement in August 2021 and we have already opened a recruitment for his position. The four camera Axon body cam field trial started this Monday, so far it has been positive.

IV) Animal Control Code Updates

Assistant City Attorney Palmer briefed the council on two separate proposed ordinances amending animal control sections. Changes to SMC 6.04 clarifies the refund period for deposits. A second ordinance would make amendments to SMC 6.10 relating to dangerous dogs brought into Sumner after being declared in another jurisdiction. It also adds a provision that a dangerous dog declared in another jurisdiction the owner may request the designation be rescinded, based on the same

conditions as those dogs that have been declared in Sumner. Committee members had no issues, concerns, or questions and gave a due pass for both ordinances to move to the June 7th RCM.

V) Amendments to SMC 2.76 Emergency Management

Both ACA Palmer and Chief Moericke presented an ordinance amending SMC 2.76 relating to emergency management. Most of the proposed changes were a result of the change in the interlocal with East Pierce. The amendment removes the Fire Chief as the designated Emergency Management Director and designates the Police Chief. There was also some proposed changes to the authority given the Mayor in emergency proclamations and order of succession should the Mayor not be available. There was some questions by committee members about including the Deputy Mayor in succession to the Mayor in such instances. Staff was directed to provide a response by the City Attorney if that was an option, and if so the preference of the committee was to include the Deputy Mayor. The item was still given a due pass to be presented at the June 7th RCM.

VI) Amendments to SCM 8.08 Fireworks

ACA Palmer briefed the committee on proposed ordinance that would amend SMC 8.08 as it relates to the issuance of permits to sell fireworks, have public firework displays, and the necessary inspections. These changes were needed to reflect the change in roles and responsibilities with EPFR and the city's new fire inspector. Most of the changes were renaming the appropriate titles. Committee members wanted to make sure when the item is presented to full council that there is no changes being made regarding the discharge of fireworks in this ordinance. Due pass for the June 7th Council meeting.

VII) Traffic Safety Task Force Interlocal Agreement

Chief Moericke presented the committee with a proposed ILA forming the Tacoma Pierce County DUI & Traffic Safety Task Force. The City was party to a prior ILA forming this very task force in 2016 that expired after 5 years. This ILA mirrors the prior agreement and is self-renewing every 2-years. Committee members gave this resolution a due pass. Because there are so many parties included in the ILA and in the event other jurisdictions propose any changes, the resolution will be added to the July 6th RCM for adoption.

VI) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 5:46

Next meeting will be June 16, 2021 via Zoom.