



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the September 15, 2021, Meeting**

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

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke and Chief Jon Parkinson

Others present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chair Bitetto

I) Monthly Activity Reports – Fire, Chief Parkinson

No substantial statistical changes. Over-all call volume in 2021 is up 10% from 2020. There were several significant recent fire events: a brush fire south of Tehaleh, a 3 alarm commercial fire in Puyallup, and a 3 alarm fire to an apartment complex in Edgewood.

II) Monthly Activity Reports – Police, Chief Moericke

Chief Moericke provided the committee with police the activity report for August. Activity for August was significantly down compared to other months, mostly a decrease in traffic stops. The lower-than-normal stats are due to staffing shortages and lower officer moral following the legislative reforms that took effect July 25th.

III) Department Updates - Both

Fire: The department is still navigating the impacts of the state and federal vaccine mandate on staff. They have seen a rise in cardiac arrest cases, possibly because deferred medical procedures/routine care. They are seeing decreased capacity at local emergency rooms, but so far have not been required to divert to out of area hospitals.

Last two fire engines are being inspected this week prior to delivery. The old Edgewood station we be demolished starting next week. Construction of the new Bonney Lake station is only 2-3 months away.

During the August primary, the EMS levy passed but the fire levy failed. The fire levy will go back to the voters for the November general election. EPRF board of Commissioners will be adopting/approving a new strategic plan for the district next week. Chief will present a draft 2022 budget to the board in October with the final budget adopting in November.

Police: Chief Moericke updated the committee on current staffing. There will be lateral oral boards to fill the vacant officer position on September 27th. We currently have 4 lateral applications pending. The guild CBA will be voted on September 28th and should come to the council on October 4th. Covid vaccination requirements are already having an impact. CJTC is requiring all its outside instructors to be vaccinated. We had numerous officers (7) scheduled to attend patrol tactics classes in October that had to be cancelled because not all instructors are vaccinated. Recruit officers will also need to be vaccinated to attend the academy. There will likely also be a federal OSHA vaccination requirement for Sumner based on the recent presidential order. We are exploring what the testing alternative to that mandate might look like. The remaining half of the department will be transitioning to the new 9mm

Glock firearms on October 8th. After this group, the entire department will be transitioned, and all the older model Glocks will be surpluses and traded in. Body cams have been ordered with an anticipated delivery date in October with training in November.

IV) Good of the order: None

V) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 5:34

Next meeting will be October 20, 2021, either in-person or via Zoom TBA.