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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES - FIRE

Chief Parkinson provided his monthly report to committee members to include calls for service by station, by apparatus, call response times by service area and year over year comparisons. Sumner Station 113 and the ladder truck are still trending to be the busiest stations/apparatus.

As far as Covid-19 issues, things appear to be returning to normal for the District and the region. The Board has returned to in-person meetings. We are still awaiting a ruling on the federal vaccine mandate and its impacts on federal subcontractors (Medicare reimbursements). We are planning for a return to in-person public events (Easter egg hunts, open houses, public CPR classes, etc.).

East Pierce has applied for a SAFER Grant (staffing for adequate fire and emergency response) with the federal government. The requested grant amount is \$5,267,328, which covers the wages and benefits of 12 firefighters for 3 years. If awarded, these new positions will be used to open the new Station 117 in Tehaleh. We will hear more this summer.

As seen on the local news, many fire stations have become the targets of thefts. While we have not yet been a target, we have taken steps to further secure our unstaffed facilities by adding alarm systems and cameras.

Recruit Graduation: We have a virtual recruit graduation scheduled for 2/22 @ 6 pm. This class of three paramedics will be hitting the streets next week.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS AND DEPARTMENT UPDATES - POLICE

Chief Moericke provided the committee with department statistics for January 2022. Along with the aggregate data, Chief also broke down the calls for service by month in January according to their type, i.e. Alarms, burglary, auto theft, welfare checks, traffic stops, etc.

Chief Moericke updated committee members on staffing. No Covid impacts at this time. In the process of filling Officer Kelly's replacement and Sgt. Temple's anticipated replacement. In addition to new hires, the department will be holding a promotional testing process for Sgt. on Feb 17th. Still in the process of hiring an additional Shelter Assistant position and we now have an Animal Control Officer position to fill with the abrupt resignation of Officer Goldstone. Committee discussed some of the hiring challenges in the current job market.

Chief is tracking the progress of bills of interest as they progress through the legislative process. The Chief is optimistic that officers will be restored some clarification and resources to better perform their duties and return

to a more proactive policing model. So far, the body worn camera program is going very well. Chief will be giving the entire council an update at the March 14th study session.

ACTION ITEMS

None at this time

Discussion Items

Chair Bitetto had requested an update regarding unlawful street racing in response to a citizen email expressing some concern over activity in a local warehouse parking lot. Chief Moericke shared some recent information about an uptick in activity of local street racing groups, mostly in Tacoma. Chief also discussed the recent changes in 2021 by the council updating and strengthening Sumner's Code regarding no race zones, Unlawful Race Attendance, and Stay Out of Areas of Racing (SOAR). The police department will also follow up with the property owner or lessee regarding steps they can take to secure their parking lots at night if not used for business operations.

Chief Moericke brought up (at a citizen's request) the on-going issue of non-domestic rabbits in the Rivergrove/River Park area of southwest Sumner. The issue at hand based on the citizen complaint was that his neighbor often feeds the rabbits and thereby leads to a greater population of rabbits in his (their) neighborhood. Currently there is no prohibition on feeding rabbits or any non-domesticated animals (including waterfowl) under city code. Chief Moericke conducted a cursory search in Code Publishing and was not able to locate similar prohibitions in similar WA cities. As a general rule, Metro Animal Services does not handle issues related to non-domesticated animals such as rabbits, possums, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, moles, etc. Removal or population control of non-domesticated animals, pests, rodents, etc. are generally left for private sector contractors and pest control services. After some discussion and debate, council committee members were not recommending addressing this issue by adopting a specific ordinance. However, committee members asked if staff could look at providing residents more information and education on the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:50 pm.

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.