



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the March 16, 2022, Meeting**

Members present: Barbara Bitetto (Chair), Patrick Reed, and Pat Cole

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke and Chief Jon Parkinson

Others present: None.

Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm

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

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.

Annual Report for 2021 is now on the District website [East Pierce Fire & Rescue > Annual Reports](#)

As far as COVID, things continue in a positive direction. Masking changes at the state level had made life better for our employees. The return to normal continues with our ability to offer public CPR classes, Easter egg hunts (Edgewood, Sumner, South Prairie), several groups are now back in person (FME Chamber and the Chamber Collective).

Chief Parkinson commented on the position of the District regarding tax exempt dwellings and the associated impacts (letter sent to Administrator Wilson). Chief will be updating the full Council on May 2nd regarding the happenings within the District over the last year, and where we are headed in 2022.

Upcoming discussions for the Board of Fire Commissioners: Evaluate 5-year revenue and expense projections, Evaluate the sale of the second half of bonds (\$40 million). Interest rates provide the opportunity to save taxpayers money and shorten the repayment schedule. Evaluate the future direction of the volunteer firefighter program and Evaluate strategic goals for 2023.

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

Chief Moericke provided the committee with department statistics for February 2022 noting that most activity was down across the board.

Chief Moericke updated committee members on staffing. No Covid impacts at this time. A new entry level officer has been hired, he starts April 4 and hopefully will get into the academy on May 3. A conditional offer has been made to a lateral officer, he will complete the final background steps next week and hopefully can start on April 18th. A new Shelter Assistant has been hired and will start April 4th. Chief Moericke announced that he has promoted Officer Loren Houselog to the rank of Sergeant effective April 1. There is currently only 2 vacancies left, a police officer and an animal control officer.

Last week the Case Cracker video recording system was installed in both patrol rooms and seems to be working well. Our first hybrid patrol vehicle went into service this week which should result in some fuel savings.

III) Action Items:

1. Ordinance 2816 amending SMC 6.04 regarding “kennel license” definition was presented to the committee. This is needed to clarify our code regarding which types of businesses would require a kennel license. The committee gave the ordinance a “do pass” for a full vote.

IV) Discussion Items:

1. Chief presented the basic terms of the memorandum of understanding between Sumner and Puyallup for the shared shelter space at the Tacoma Salvation Army. There is capacity to house 6 males and 8 females per day. Puyallup will dedicate 2 male beds and 3 female beds for Sumner and Sumner will reimburse Puyallup 1/3 of the monthly shelter costs (\$1,535.63). If additional beds are needed by Sumner and they are available, Sumner would pay the prorated per-bed, per day rate if utilized. Since this agreement is a memorandum and the costs have already been approved by council, no further council action is needed.
2. Chief Moericke presented the committee with a recent animal license fee comparison to prompt a discussion about whether to raise our fees in Sumner. Sumner has not increased pet license fees since November 2014, and that increase was only \$2. A dog license in Sumner for an altered dog is \$16 and only \$8 for senior citizens. Other local cities/towns/ and Pierce County the rate is \$20 or more, \$30 in Auburn and King County. The committee was comfortable authorizing an increase to \$20 altered, \$10 senior rate. Unaltered pet rates and cat license fees are already in-line with our comparables and do not warrant an increase at this time. Chief Moericke will draft an ordinance making these changes and bring it back to committee in April.

V) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:32 pm.

Next meeting will be April 20, 2022, at 5:30 via Zoom.