

Proceedings of the Public Safety Committee November 9, 2009

Members Present: Councilor Mick MacKenzie
Councilor Warren Bender
Councilor Esther Dalbec

Others Present: Police Chief Floyd Peters
Fire Chief Jim Rigstad
Councilor Gregory Mertzig
Councilor Chuck Hendry
Officer Chris Moe, SPD
Thomas LeSage, SFD

Councilor MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and noted that roll call had been taken by sign up.

Approval of Public Safety Meeting minutes of October 14, 2009

Motion by Councilor Dalbec seconded by Councilor Bender and carried to approve Public Safety meeting minutes from October 14, 2009.

A note that there were some questions about the Amended Animal ordinance at the last council meeting. This item will be on the next Council agenda. Chief Peters said that the language in question is in the ordinance, in another section. City Attorney Prell and CSO Wagner will both attend the council meeting and answer questions if necessary.

Matters to be considered:

1. Referral from October 20, 2009 Council meeting; fire department operated ambulance service

Chief Rigstad passed out some materials on this subject. There were some questions about paramedics, first responders, what is required for training for each, etc.

There was some discussion on forming a fact finding committee to look at this issue. Some suggestions for committee members; Councilor Mertzig, Finance Director Jean Vito, Councilor Anderson, Fire Chief Rigstad, Firefighter Tom LeSage, a citizen representative from the city and the county, a representative from St. Louis County or a Duluth City Councilor, (Duluth are currently looking into a fire department operated ambulance service in their city, and may have information to share. This committee could report back to the City Council in 90 days.

It was suggested that the City advertise for volunteers, and interested parties could apply to be on the committee through the County & City Clerk's offices.

There was some discussion on the legalities of the City providing an ambulance service.

Tom LeSage spoke about being proactive about this issue. At the very least just to gather some information on this subject, so we can make a well informed decision.

A motion by Councilor Dalbec, seconded by Councilor Bender and carried to advertise for volunteers and form a fact finding committee to be in place by November 20th, (members chosen) As mentioned above, this committee will consist of City Councilors Anderson and Mertzig, and Dan Olson, if he will serve, Fire Chief Rigstad, Finance Director Jean Vito, A County Board member, City & County representatives, Firefighter Tom LeSage, and possibly a Duluth City Councilor. County & City Clerk's office to advertise and provide sign up sheets. Councilor Mertzig will speak to the Clerk's office about the sign up and advertising. Councilor Dalbec offered to be an alternate if Councilor Olson cannot join the committee for some reason.

Chief Rigstad handed out a projected fire department budget with regard to the ambulance service being part of the department.

Standing Agenda Items

1. Fire Dept update

Chief Rigstad told the committee that in October there were 179 medical runs, 48 fire incidents, 4 of which were structure fires.

Motion by Councilor Dalbec, seconded by Councilor Bender and carried to receive & file the Fire Department Update.

2. Police Department update

Chief Peters noted that the police department continues to average 2000 to 2200 calls for service per month.

Chief Peters said that he is proud of our officers' work, and noted that recently we have had a drive by shooting, and several armed robberies. We have solved some of these cases, and are still working on others. Chief Peters mentioned the recent sexual assault case that was solved with DNA evidence. The media has experienced their own budget cuts and seems more reactionary these days, but we have contacted the media recently to tell them of some positive happenings in our department. Investigator Jeff Harriman was recently nominated and then selected as Wisconsin's Narcotic Investigator of the

year. Also recently Officer Maas and K-9 Blek received the 2009 Meritorious K-9 Apprehension Award from the WI Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Assn.

Dr. Tekler is attending recruit school, is also class president and will graduate November 20th. Once he's completed recruit school he'll function as our tactical physician with our ERT team. A conditional offer of employment has been made to a police candidate. After successful completion of all pre-hire requirements, his official start date will be January 11th when he begins recruit school at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, and we would then be up to full staffing. Over the next month our department will be planning for 2010 reviewing projects, training and collateral assignments. Employee performance evaluations are due in before the end of the year, so supervisors are working on those now. We will have our annual awards ceremony in January, but have not yet set a date. All in all we are busy and doing well!

Motion by Councilor Bender seconded by Councilor Dalbec and carried to receive & file the Police Department Update.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting by Councilor Dalbec, seconded by Councilor Bender and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Herman

Administrative Assistant

Superior Police Department