

Proceedings of the Public Safety Committee November 18, 2020

Members Present: Councilor Elm
 Councilor Sutherland
 Councilor Dalbec

Others Present: Chief Gordon, Chief Alexander, Lt. Trone, Shelley Nelson, Officer Brad Jago,
 Councilor Nick Ledin, City Attorney Frog Prell

Some participants joined the meeting via Google Meet.

Councilor Sutherland called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked that Donna Swanson record all participants for roll call.

Approval of minutes: October 21, 2020

Motion by Councilor Elm, seconded by Councilor Sutherland and carried to approve the Public Safety meeting minutes from October 21, 2020.

Standing Agenda items:

1. Fire Department Update

Chief Gordon said he is working on a plan so that department members can test themselves for COVID. Chief Gordon is also working on a vaccination plan for firefighters when it becomes available. He is working on an incentive for the vaccination in hopes that all firefighters will be vaccinated. Chief Gordon also talked about the fact that most people will get side effects/symptoms from the vaccine. Chief Gordon said interviews are set up for this Thursday. Eight candidates will be interviewed by a panel and then have another interview on the same day with the Chief. Chief Gordon explained that three of the candidates are flying here for their interviews, so they opted to have them on the same day so they only have to travel once.

2. Police Department Update

Chief Alexander said the police department currently has several officers off of work awaiting results of COVID testing. Chief Alexander said we will swear in three new officer candidates before the end of the year. They'll all go to basic recruit school in Eau Claire. All three hires are female candidates. And four out of the last five hires have been female. Chief Alexander said this adds diversity and is an exciting time for the department. The department is still a couple officers short of being fully staffed, and we are also expecting several retirements between now and next summer. Chief Alexander recently approached the PFC about having a lateral transfer option. This process would offer an open enrollment period for people who are already certified, licensed to be a police officer, or eligible for it through reciprocity. Chief Alexander said this would make it more encouraging for officers from other departments to apply with our department without going through the entire hiring process. Overall Chief Alexander said things are good within the department. The most recent working agreement with the union has been agreed upon.

Chief Alexander said there has been some escalation of violent crime in our city and in other cities as well. It's difficult to tell if the uptick in crime is COVID related.

No action

New Business

1. Chief Gordon: Recommendation to purchase a 5 Alarm Arctic Compressor package

Motion by Councilor Dalbec, seconded by Councilor Elm and carried to receive and file Chief Gordon's recommendation to purchase a 5 Alarm Arctic Compressor package.

2. Referred back from Council: Chronic Nuisance Premises

Motion by Councilor Dalbec, seconded by Councilor Sutherland and carried to approve the additions to the Chronic Nuisance Premises ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.