



Des Peres Public Safety Department
12325 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO. 63131
April 17, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 17th day of April 2023 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present: Commissioner ChairLarry Beermann
Commissioner.....Robert Ashcraft
Commissioner.....Caitie Zimmerman
Chief.....Eric Hall
Captain.....Dale Fiala
Support Lieutenant.....John Appelbaum
Administrative Assistant.....Mónica Llorián

Not Present: Commissioner.....Matt McGrath
Alderman.....Sean Concagh
Captain.....Vicki Severs

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Beermann opened the meeting. Administrative Asst. Llorián commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Commissioner McGrath, Alderman Concagh, and Captain Severs absent with excuse.

HEAR CITIZENS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Zimmermann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

None

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Chief Hall stated the construction on the Shake Shack restaurant is moving forward and noticed concrete being poured today. He stated that initially the owner was going to make changes but decided against it due to the potential need to go back to Planning and Zoning for approval. In addition, part of the delay on the project is the owners went back to bid in relation to pricing on materials.

Chief Hall stated that he and Captain Fiala reviewed the initial site plan for the Magnolia Ridge apartment complex and at this time did not find anything that concerned them. The one item remaining is the engineering study on the turning radius of the large fire apparatus that would respond to the complex. Chief Hall stated that the complex will be 3-5 stories with approximately 186 units.

Chief Hall stated that the Board will have a public hearing at a future meeting regarding the recommendations from Planning and Zoning on the guidelines of cannabis/marijuana dispensaries and the requirement under the conditional use permit for such as business. In addition Chief Hall added that at the most recent election city voters approved Proposition M, which allows the city to levy a sales tax on marijuana purchases.

Chief Hall added that 1879 Distillery has discussed adding a Warehouse on a lot adjacent to Sam's' and on the current vacant church on Barrett Parkway. The storage facility would be a warehouse for alcohol and supplies.

BUDGET

Chief Hall that the budget is on pace with 67.21% remaining, however, he added that overtime for paramedic staffing continues to be a reoccurring issue. He added that he submitted a memo to the City Administrator about the potential need for a supplemental budget appropriation this year. Chief Hall concluded that with upcoming staff graduating from the fire academy and paramedic school, this should ease the paramedic overtime issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Ambulance Billing Recommendation

Commissioner Ashcraft had questions regarding the current ambulance billing collection policy, specifically the city will only collect a certain amount from insurance and then write the balance off, instead of attempting to collect the remaining balance. Commissioner Ashcraft added that due to the existing policy he would not recommend raising the current EMS transport rates, if the city will only collect what the insurance will pay.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to have Chief Hall conduct a survey of area departments and their respective collection policy to determine if it matches the city's. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Hiring Process Update

Chief Hall stated the department is in the process of hiring the top applicant who is a sergeant with a neighboring city. In addition, the second applicant on our hiring list has accepted the position of part-time paramedic which will increase our part time paramedic staffing to three (3).

DISCUSSION

Chief Hall presented the commission with a crime summary for 2022 in comparison to the last five years. Chief Hall provided information on each category and specifically discussed the vehicle related crimes which have been an issue in the region and the city. Chief Hall commended staff for their visible patrol efforts as officers drove more mileage in 2022 versus previous years. In addition, the department has continued leaving notification cards for open garage doors with residents and are participating in a county wide saturation patrol detail aimed at reducing the vehicle related crimes.

Chief Hall stated that with the passing of recreational marijuana statewide the city has approved an ordinance related to these changes. A brief discussion was held on the changes in the city ordinance now that recreational marijuana is legal.

Captain Fiala stated that the new ambulance is in service. He stated that there was a parking brake issue that will be corrected this week. Chief Hall added that the new ambulance will be brought up to show at the next Board of Alderman meeting. He concluded that ambulance 2897 will soon be put up for sale on GovDeals.com or other similar site.

Commissioner Ashcraft asked if there are any current laws regarding electric scooters being ridden on public streets as well as an age restriction. Commissioner Ashcraft added that he saw two scooters in traffic on Manchester at Ballas. Chief Hall offered to survey other departments and ordinances and to look into the matter further.

Chief Hall advised the commission that he had the up to date Public Safety Building renovation plans and offered to show the plans and provide an update on the status of the project after the meeting.

ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

Mónica Llorián, Administrative Asst.
