



Des Peres Public Safety Department  
12325 Manchester Road  
Des Peres, MO. 63131  
August 3, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2020 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present:

Commissioner Chair.....Robert Ashcraft  
Commissioner.....Caitie Zimmerman  
Commissioner.....Matt McGrath  
Chief.....Eric Hall  
Captain.....Sean Quinn  
Administrative Asst.....Mónica Llorián

Not Present:

Commissioner Chair .....Larry Beermann  
Alderman.....Pat Barrett  
Captain.....Dale Fiala (absent with excuse)  
Support Lieutenant.....Vicki Severs (absent with excuse)

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Co-Chair Ashcraft opened the meeting. Administrative Assistant Llorián commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Commissioner Beermann, Alderman Barrett, Captain Fiala and Lt. Severs not present.

**HEAR CITIZENS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to table the approval the minutes of the July 6, 2020, meeting. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

None

## **ALDERMANIC REPORT**

Chief Hall stated Alderman Sean Concagh will be the commission's new Aldermanic representative.

Commissioner Ashcraft stated that Commissioner Beermann was reappointed to the Public Safety Commission.

## **BUDGET**

Chief Hall stated vehicle maintenance along with chemicals purchases have taken the greatest hits on the 2020 Operating Budget. He stated the budget is tracking slightly above the normal range. Chief Hall complimented the staff who have worked together to reduce overtime related to staffing issues. Chief Hall concluded that he has been working with Asst. City Administrator Schaefer on the 2021 Capital Improvement Budget.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Introduction – Bill 20-2879 Regulations for Deer Hunting by Archery or Crossbow**

Chief Hall stated that Asst. City Administrator Schaefer will be doing a presentation at the next Board of Alderman meeting regarding an update on the proposed ordinance. In addition, the department is drafting a permitting process to manage the program. He concluded that Lt. Preuss will have a lot of input on the permit issues as he has vast knowledge of hunting.

### **Appointment of Commission Chairman**

Commissioner McGrath made a motion to table the appointment of commission chairman when all commissioners are present to vote. Commissioner Zimmerman second the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **Fire Sales Tax**

Chief Hall reminded the commission that the fire sales tax ballot proposal will be on the ballot of Tuesday's election (August 4, 2020).

### **New Hire**

Chief Hall advised the commission that a new police officer, Michael Blattel, was hired by the department. Officer Blattel's first day with the department was Friday, July 31, and he will begin his field training with the department which is expected to last 30 days. Officer Blattel worked for Sunset Hills Police Department for seven years and Warren County for three years prior to coming to Des Peres.

### **Body Cameras**

Chief Hall stated that the subject of body cameras has been discussed for a few years and this year a small committee has been reviewing technology and proposals for the department. The department

met with three vendors for the project (Utility, Stalker, and Axon) and believe we are in a position to recommend a vendor for the project, Utility. This recommendation is based on the lease versus equipment purchase option, technology for both the body camera's and the in car camera's, ease of use for officers, included evidence program, and also the safety features.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to support the department recommendation to purchase the body cameras from Utility. Commissioner McGrath second the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Commission on Law Enforcement International (CALEA) Update**

Chief Hall stated the department has successfully completed annual review. The two items recommended were to transition to an alternate evidence program versus the excel based program we used today and the department would need to establish as storage area for large evidence items like bicycles. He concluded that the department is reviewing the option and cost for a cage system that would be secured in the department's rear garage.

### **Nuisance Alarm Ordinance**

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to table the discussion of the nuisance alarm ordinance. Commissioner McGrath second the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chief Hall stated that the city, along with other cities in St. Louis County has seen an increase in criminal activity. He reviewed a few specific incidents, such as the two (2) burglaries in Harwood Hills, incidents of stolen vehicles, and a stealing incident from Jimmy Johns. Chief Hall mentioned that one plan is to have the department saturate the midnight patrols by increasing the number of officers. In addition, the department is attempting to increase communication with our residents and remind them to not keep valuables in their vehicles, lock their vehicles, and close garage doors. The department recently also set up the "Lock it or Lose it" sign throughout the city as a reminder.

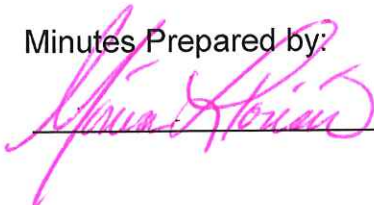
Commissioner Ashcraft received a complaint from a resident who stated that they felt the police patrol vehicles are not easily identifiable.

Commissioner Ashcraft presented Chief Hall with an article about blue lights on vehicles which he believes are becoming increasingly popular with other police departments. These lights are specifically activated while the officer is conducting residential patrol functions.

## **ADJOURNEMENT**

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

  
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ATTEST:

  
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