

**PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2016**

PRESENT

- Mayor Jill Boudreau
- Council Members
 - Bob Fiedler
 - Mary Hudson
 - Mark Hulst
 - Joe Lindquist
 - Gary Molenaar
 - Dale Ragan
- Chief of Police Jerry Dodd
- Fire Chief Roy Hari
- CED Director Bob Hyde
- City Attorney Kevin Rogerson
- Finance Director Alicia Huschka

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order by Councilman Mark Hulst. Public Safety Meeting Minutes from 10/07/15 and 12/02/15 were approved and adopted.

JERRY DODD – CHIEF OF POLICE

DOG KENNEL UPDATE

- Special thanks to Dean Gilbert for all he's done toward this project
- Provided update/photographs showing progress of new dog kennel

- Work also being done on entry to Police Department (photographs provided)

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- One Police Officer vacancy
- One Lieutenant vacancy
 - Promotion projected end of February/first of March
- Seven officers eligible for retirement in 2016
- Tyler Clark to graduate from BLEA 03/09/16
- John Flaherty to begin BLEA next month
- Ed Gless hired in December and may be accepted in BLEA w/Flaherty
- Background being done on two potential candidates
- Officers Chris Carlson, Eric Kivi, Elizabeth Paul completed field training

Next six months

- Will continue hiring process
- Possible Police Sergeant promotion

Next nine months

- Fill temporary assignments

2016 EVENTS, PROJECTS, ETC.

- Overview of 2016 Department priorities
 - Goals and objectives
 - Planning process
 - Accreditation
 - Neighborhood Policing continues
 - 25 planned community events already scheduled for 2016
 - Vektor to complete drug dog training
 - Continue Neighborhood Meetings, revisit all Block Watch Groups, 14th Preparatory Academy, 22nd Citizens Academy
- 2016 Challenges
 - Homelessness
 - Fill temporary assignments
 - Spillman Imaging
 - Gang emphasis
 - Focus on identified “hot spots”
- Neighborhood Successes – Measuring Successes
 - Neighborhood livability
 - Proactive policing
 - Problem solving efforts
- Provided list of 2015 successes – 82 total
 - Resolved - 52
 - Reduced frequency – 22
 - On-going – 8
 - MVPD is a model agency on dealing with neighborhood issues
 - Very proactive in our policing

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Vektor provided free Kevlar vest (donated)
- Ford Interceptor Utility Update – Two Years of Use
 - No maintenance issues (no glitches)
 - Will be requesting additional vehicles (replacements) in 2017
- Annual “Shop With a Hero” was a success again in 2015
 - In conjunction with Wal Mart, officers shop with underprivileged kids
 - Good sense of community
- 2015 “Annual Coat Drive” also a success
 - MVPD Officers started drive a few years ago, this year, partnered with Skagit Rotary
 - 3,000 coats donated
 - Modern Cleaners volunteered to clean all donated coats
 - Cash donations also received

ROY HARI – FIRE CHIEF AND ALICIA HUSCHKA – FINANCE DIRECTOR

BRUSH TRUCK SKID UNIT

- Possible upcoming budget amendment
- Fire Chief Roy Hari talked about brush truck, grants, funding sources, etc.
 - Finance Director Alicia Huschka discussed cost, etc.

MAYOR JILL BOUDREAU

- Signup sheet for committee chairpersons
- Has been an expressed interest by Council Members to switch seats

HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

- Increase in homeless individuals
- Mayor Boudreau provided chronological timeline of what's been done to date
 - Roundtable group
 - AWC human services meeting
 - Compass Mental Health
 - Skagit County/Community Action – outreach team concept
- “Cannot emphasize enough the complexity of this problem”
 - Mental Health and substance abuse
 - Homeless Prevention
 - Affordable housing
 - Permanent Supportable housing
 - Shelter and services
 - Street vagrancy
- Other efforts
 - Population Health Trust
 - Community Action coordinated entry into services, identifying models
 - Affordable housing
 - Part of comprehensive planning
 - SCOG – housing inventory
 - Affordable housing projects
 - Permanent supportive housing proposals
 - Skagit County Public Health 0.01% funding
 - Comes from sales tax and goes directly to public health services
 - How can this be allocated to homelessness issues?
 - Regional mental health realignments
 - Family Promise
 - Churches helping homeless issues by taking in families
 - Getting families connected with social services
- **CITY IMPACTS**
 - POLICE DEPARTMENT
 - Drinking, drug use
 - Theft (shoplifting, power)
 - Aggressive panhandling and behavior
 - Squatting
 - Department spending two hours per week proactively looking for homeless
 - Reactive services \$9,800

- Officer Leighton is officer leading/documenting this
 - Documented 188 unique contacts in two years
 - Asking questions and gathering data
 - 40% are drug users (meth, heroin)
 - 32% convicted felons
 - FIRE DEPARTMENT
 - EMS, drug overdose
 - PARKS DEPARTMENT
 - Tom Wenzl (City Work Program) has been cleaning up transient camps
 - Litter, HAZMAT: human waste and needles
 - 367 cubic yards garbage cleaned out
 - 100% sites have had drug paraphernalia
 - 829 man-hours spent on cleaning homeless encampments
 - Vandalism
 - LIBRARY
 - Loitering, Vandalism and Disruptive behavior
 - Ideas
 - Continue accountability of behavior at City sites
 - Legal officer contact
 - Regular encampment patrols – who pays?
 - Trespassing, ticketing – for what?
 - Physical environment changes
 - Other – Limited hours at library
 - Mental Health Court/Drug Court expansion
 - Financial resources (or lack thereof)
 - Daylight or Triage shelter – who?
 - Showers
 - Laundry
 - Connections to services
 - Assertive mobile outreach teams
 - Phased approach – DATA COLLECTORS
 - Crisis Prevention and Intervention Teams – Compass Health
 - Anyone eligible for team to visit them whether at home or on street
 - 14 days of case management

Homelessness will be put on 01/20/16 study session agenda for further discussion

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM