

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEO
CONFERENCE
CITY STAFF PARTICIPATED FROM THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
October 7, 2020 @ 4:00pm

Committee Members present: Councilor, Martin Pepin, Chairman
 Councilor, Kenneth S. Vincent
 Councilor, Crystal Paradis
 Councilor, Nancie Cameron

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
 Police Chief, David Kretschmar
 Stewarts Ambulance Chief, Paul Robidas
 Fire Chief, George Kramlinger
 City Clerk, Jonathan Slaven

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis and passed 4-0, by voice vote.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – ENGINE 2 PURCHASE TIMELINE

Director Smith explained the impact that the change in the retirement system rates will have on the City budget. Knowing the change is coming, he suggested the possibility of pushing back the purchase of the fire apparatus by six months. He explained that this has nothing to do with the fire truck itself, rather it is simply a budgetary move that will push the initial lease payment out one fiscal year .

Councilor Vincent doesn't know what is going to happen in two years when the rates are set to change again. He said we have to be careful and doesn't want to push things down the road since the rates have the possibility of increasing during that time.

Councilor Pepin asked if this would bring any interruptions to service. Chief Kramlinger said he is comfortable with the current equipment and we can put off the purchase for the time being.

Councilor Cameron inquired about the life cycle of his vehicles. Chief Kramlinger said that often times they kept for 20 years, though experience different roles during that lifespan. They go from full service, to reserve, to spare.

Councilor Paradis moved to approve recommending to delay the acquisition of the new fire apparatus by 6 months. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 3-1 by

voice vote. Councilor Vincent voted No.

FIRE AND POLICE UPDATES

Chief Kramlinger stated he is getting a fire apparatus back soon from the shop to be ready for the winter. He said our aerial ladder truck was tested today. He expects minor repairs necessary. He also stated that the forestry truck will have a final inspection on Monday and will be put in service shortly after that.

Chief Kretschmar gave updates on staff hires for new Police Officers and a Parking Enforcement Officer. He stated that on the 28th of September, he deployed the crime scene unit twice. He informed the Committee that the Public may start seeing bearded officers as part of a fundraiser (Beards for Bucks) to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center. He also explained a program where his officers are now wearing pink patches for breast cancer awareness month.

Chief Kretschmar explained his department is always looking for less lethal equipment or less lethal force tactics. He introduced a device that immobilizes people in a less lethal way using a Kevlar tether. He informed the Committee that the company who manufactures the device is coming to the Police Department on October 13 for a demonstration. Councilor Paradis thanked Chief for always looking for proactive tactics and less lethal options.

Stewarts Ambulance Chief Robidas informed the Committee that the call volume is back to pre-Covid time and the current average response time is around 4.5 minutes. He described a cardiac arrest call in which his crew was responsible for saving a life. For this case he was forwarded a letter from the WDH hospital to recognize the EMS crews involved. Chief Robidas also spoke to the ongoing Accreditation process and a possible site review date where the agency spends a few days here, though he still hasn't heard word if this will be a virtual review or not.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Pepin stated that Ordinance No. 7-21 was referred to the Public Safety Committee by Council. He would like to put on the agenda for next meeting. He would also like an item on the next agenda to address the manpower for the fire department and hopes Chief Kramlinger can give us an update.

Councilor Paradis inquired about possibly getting a breakdown of the types of calls our first responders are seeing. Manager Belmore said he would discuss with the three chiefs and get something to bring to the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk