

The Public Safety Committee of the City Council for the City of Junction City met in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 680 Greenwood St., Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT WERE: Chair, Jim Leach; Councilor Bill DiMarco; Councilor Herb Christensen; Police Chief, Mark Chase; Acting Sergeant, Eric Markell; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Jim Leach called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Committee consensus was to approve the December 4, 2014 minutes.

Chair Leach asked if the public had any comments that were not on the agenda.

Two citizens requested that the City revisit allowing chickens and other domestic fowl in the City limits. They stated that Junction City was one of the few cities left in the state that did not allow chickens, and they proposed that the City adopt similar guidelines like the City of Eugene put into effect in February 2013 on allowing chickens. They cited the financial and health benefits of raising your own chickens and noted that there were many people in Junction City who either had chickens or wanted to have them.

Committee members responded that the topic had been thoroughly reviewed and discussed by the Planning Commission and multiple committees for over a year. Neighborhoods were canvassed and a majority of constituents did not want chickens. The Council had reviewed and unanimously decided not to allow chickens. It was noted that the City of Veneta allows chickens only if the lot is 2/3rds of an acre, and many lots in Junction City were only 5000 square feet. Also noted was that the City uses a complaint based system and to vary from that could involve costly charges to citizens on enforcement of current violations, such as fences being out of compliance, etc.

The Committee thanked the citizens for sharing their comments and did not express an interest in discussing further at this point.

III. SHOTGUN PURCHASES

Acting Sergeant Markell shared that the Police Department would like to purchase 12 new shotguns to replace the old shotguns, as well as make sure that every vehicle is outfitted for a shotgun.

- Current budget includes \$10,000 in State Shared Revenue for this purchase.
- A few of the current shotguns are from the 70's and are becoming unreliable.
- One quote was received from Surplus Ammo and Arms, as they are the sole supplier in the area for the Remington police model that the department would like.
- The Remington is the most popular model amongst police agencies and is of a higher quality that will last 40 years. They also have a shorter barrel, which would be easier to take out of the vehicles, could be used with one hand, and includes a light. These are the 870s that were talked about last year.
- The original quote last year for 10 guns was \$9,000. The quote from Surplus Ammo was \$5277 for 10 guns. The department has asked for a revised quote to include 2

more guns for the 11th officer and for a reserve. The quote doesn't include shotgun holders, which will cost a couple hundred dollars.

- The guns have the ability to shoot rubber bullets and bean bags, but the department isn't planning on using the guns for those purposes. Those types of guns are normally a different color, so an officer can easily identify what type of gun they are grabbing.
- Each gun is \$527 for a total of roughly \$6300 for 12 shotguns.
- It was noted that some of the PD vehicles were equipped with both assault rifles and shotguns and that the Chargers had gun mounts in their trunks.

Chair Leach and Councilor Christensen expressed their support of this purchase and to recommend approval to the Council.

Mr. Jack Sumner, 1061 Quince, Junction City, stated that he thought they were overstocking the Police Department with weapons, when on any given day they never have half of the Police Department on duty. He recommended having weapons in an arms locker and to assign them to the officers on duty. He was not in favor of spending money for shotguns to be put in vehicles that were not being used.

Councilor DiMarco noted that they had never had a comprehensive look at the armament spectrum at the department and provided an example of being unaware of assault rifles being in some vehicles. He added that he was not opposed to having shotguns, but would register a decent on purchasing to give validity to Mr. Sumner's view on the number of shotguns.

Chair Leach asked if the armament information could be provided to the Committee. Acting Sergeant Markell responded that the department could provide that information, and Officer Mertz could answer a lot of questions on topic.

Councilor DiMarco added that he would like to see a budgetary discussion of getting police equipment like shotguns and tasers on a replacement schedule, similar to vehicles. Chair Leach responded that was a good idea.

In response to a question on tasers, Acting Sergeant Markell stated that two tasers had recently been replaced. Tasers need to be replaced every 7 years and they were looking at a five year plan.

Councilor DiMarco stated that he was interested in building that into the equipment reserve funds, so the department wasn't scrambling each year with transfers, etc.

Chief Chase asked for clarification that the Committee wanted to forward this to the Council, with Chair Leach and Councilor Christensen in favor and Councilor DiMarco registering a decent and to have discussion at the Council level limited to the purchase of these shotguns and not have the overall presentation of all of the department's weapons.

Chair Leach responded that was correct and discussion on the overall weapons would happen at a later time.

IV. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN

The Committee discussed the need for a Vehicle Replacement Plan and discussion included:

- The Police Department could provide a number of options on a replacement plan to the Public Safety Committee to provide policy direction on. Options could include purchasing used vehicles which has been past history, replacing a vehicle once it has 100,000 miles, purchasing one new vehicle a year, or doing some combination.
- Average number of miles put on the police cars is 12,000 per year.
- The department's last purchases were the used Dodge Chargers, which were a great deal. One of the department's Chargers just had an engine replaced at a cost of \$1500.
- The department's preference would be to purchase one new vehicle per year, which would mean that in 10 years the oldest vehicles would have 100 plus thousand miles on it. The older vehicles would not have to be disposed and could be used to transport people back and forth to Eugene or other tasks, but that would be a policy decision.

Chair Leach stated that he would like to see money built up in reserve where they could get to the point of buying a new car every year.

Councilor DiMarco he was not so much concerned about what policy is settled upon, but would like the reserve fund for those vehicles to be really well established and mapped out so that every year in the budget the department was not scrambling with transfers, etc. to fund vehicles. He added that he'd like to settle on a plan then build the financial plan around that, so it's not a big topic of discussion that takes a whole budget meeting. Chair Leach and Councilor Christensen expressed their agreement.

In response to a question on if the department could prepare something for this year's budget, Chief Chase stated that they could and would bring that to the next Committee meeting. His recommendation would be to put in the budget the purchase of one new vehicle and leave the reserve fund for emergency purchases or for when another opportunity comes up, like the Chargers. He added that those opportunities are coming up more frequently, as a lot of agencies are going to three year lease programs.

Councilor DiMarco noted that they could aim high every year and then if a deal came up, they could save some money, but he would like the standard to be built into the budget so it's not a scramble every year.

Chief Chase asked for clarification that the department would go ahead and put together a proposal on what it costs to purchase one new vehicle and bring that back to the Committee and discuss how they could work that into the budget. Chair Leach confirmed that was correct.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION PER ORS 192.660(2)(F) TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL WRITTEN ADVICE FROM CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES, EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT PROCESSES.

Chair Leach called Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. Regular session reconvened at 9:16 p.m.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder