

The Public Safety Committee for the City of Junction City met on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT WERE: City Councilors, Steve Hitchcock (Chair) Bill DiMarco and Randy Nelson; City Administrator Jason Knope, Chief of Police Mark Chase

ABSENT: NONE

I. OPEN MEETING AND REVIEW AGENDA

Chair Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for January 2016 reviewed.

Consensus: Reviewed and approved.

III. LANE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATION

Jay Bozievich, West Lane County Commissioner, came and spoke about Lane County's recent budget process. He spoke about property taxes increasing 4% this year, Federal Forest funding, inflation, operational revenue, general fund and what funds are discretionary. Jay Bozievich advised that 25% of chargeable felonies are released due to being short on funds for District Attorney staffing and patrol is operating at only 20 hours per day.

Lane County Sheriff Trapp spoke about how they opened some more jail beds recently due to the Levy that was passed. In reality, the Lane County Jail cannot cut anything further; the Levy had language that prevents money to be co-mingled in the general fund. Remaining options to reduce the general fund in the police section without losing services, is patrol. On March 5, 2016 LCSO will have funding for 24 hour patrol. However, with the new fiscal year they are looking at having to reduce patrol to 16 hour days in the future. Lane County is severely underfunded and below the state and national averages.

Sheriff Trapp explained that half of the current Sheriff Deputies are on contract. All of these contract partners understand that when there is an emergency in the county that the Deputies will be pulled off of contract areas until the emergency is stable. So in emergencies it adds depth but not for routine situations.

Sheriff Trapp advised that the policing district for the Fern Ridge area has been tabled.

Consensus: Advisory and discussion only.

IV. SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL SECURITY REQUEST

A Scandinavian Festival board member, Sue Huntley, spoke about some security issues during the festival. One issue was dogs on the festival grounds. Dogs are not supposed to be on the festival grounds but there have been more and more in the passing years. There is a city ordinance but it is not being enforced. Another issue is loading zones, the Scandinavian board is wondering what those signs need to say and how will it be enforced. There is also an increase in thefts, trespass and counterfeit money. This prompted a question of increased communication between vendors and the police.

Chief Chase advised that in regards to the dog issues. He has discussed this with Matt Nelson. The Scandinavian Festival is considered a private event, and the police department does not enforce private rules and regulations. It was suggested to Mr. Nelson that they contract with an outside group, perhaps the Police Reserves, to educate those who have dogs on the festival grounds that they be advised of the rule and asked to leave. If they then don't leave it would be more of a trespass issue that the police department could assist with.

City Administrator Knope said that Public Works could help with language for the loading zone signs.

Consensus: Advisory and discussion only.

V. FLEET REPLACEMENT CHART REVIEW

City Administrator Knope brought spreadsheets that have options for a Fleet Replacement Plan. The options included new, used and leased vehicles with considerations of current fleet, requirements, mileage and maintenance needs.

City Administrator Knope also provided an inventory of computer equipment of the Police Department, which is a rough draft work in process.

Consensus: Advisory and discussion only.

VI. AGENDA FORECASTER

Chief Chase went over the agenda forecaster. There has been progress made finding volunteers in the community to start a VIPS program. There are 3 people interested and perhaps willing to take this program on as a volunteer coordinator and manager. Chief Chase and City Administrator Knope will be working on a job description and hiring process for VIPS.

City Administrator Knope asked if there is interest in reviving a community policing policy. The committee would like this to move forward.

Consensus: Advisory and discussion only.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Smyth