

The Public Safety Committee for the City of Junction City met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT WERE: City Councilors, Rob Stott (Chair), Bill DiMarco and Andrea Ceniga, Chief Bob Morris

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meeting were approved

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No Changes

3. CODE ENFORCEMENT DISCUSSION

Chief Morris brings up an issue that has been discussed a number of times, the way it has been conveyed to both public works and the police department is that they are not allowed to take any action on any code violation unless there is an independent complaint received from a citizen.

Councilor Scott states that this wasn't an ordinance or voted on and wants the council to chance to change this. He explained the history on this and how this was once an issue and now there can be a change and wants to get some clarity on what can be done about this.

Councilor Ceniga explains what code enforcement used to look like when she was the code enforcement officer. She states the safety part of code enforcement is a big issue.

Chief Morris states that when he started Administer Knope gave him direction that the code enforcement is complaint based only and that was from council direction.

Councilor Scott stated, that is not council direction he agrees with and would like to ask this to be an agenda item.

4. BUILDING LEASE RENEWAL

Chief Morris shows the attached purposed lease and states the landlord is happy with the arrangement and it is time to renew it.

Councilor Ceniga asks to clarify what the extra space is and Chief Morris explains that this is for a new patrol room, there is not enough space in the police department so the patrol room will move out to the new building and dispatch will move into the current patrol room

Councilor DiMarco states the nice thing about this lease is that all the rent money goes toward owning this building if the city chooses to purchase it.

Councilor DiMarco recommends this is taken to Council.

5. BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOW-UP

Chief Morris states this is a follow up based on the information in the Budget Committee Meeting.

Councilor DiMarco states that there was discussion about allocating money differently because of the backlog of investigative work within the Police Department and designating someone within the department to do the investigation work. This is not spending more funds but it is changing things within the department to free up some funds so we can bring some people in. Finding a way to do both investigating and patrol.

Chief Morris states that the department has not had a detective for many years and there is not a budget to have someone in the detective position.

Chief Morris and the Council discuss the logistics of the personnel budget in the Police Department and how the budget is not fully met because the Police Department is not fully staffed so even though overtime is high the police department is still below budget.

Chief Morris states the department has 9 officer positions, 1 being vacant, 1 officer out due to a work-related concussion and 1 in training. This makes 6 officers and one officer who is currently coming in and working part time.

Councilor DiMarco states that bringing someone on within the department to handle investigations and or bring in another part time employee that would make sense within the budget.

Chief Morris states this is a good idea and anyone within the department can investigate these things, but the problem is there is not enough minutes in a day. With 2-3 DHS referrals a day there is not much time. There is an influx of DHS and domestic violence and it is taking so much time.

Councilor DiMarco asks if the Police Department can do this internally and Chief Morris says the Police Department can do that when we have the numbers to do so.

Chief DiMarco clarifies that we are just looking to bring someone on halftime and not hire a whole new position and Chief Morris confirms that.

It was decided this will go to the Council.

6. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Deckard