

**City of Washington  
Public Safety Committee Meeting  
March 8, 2021**

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.  
Meeting also available on Zoom: Meeting ID# 543 874 7404

**Voting Members Present**

Chairman Brian Butler, Alderman Todd Yoder and Alderman John Blundy

**Other Officials Present**

Mayor-Gary Manier, City Administrator-Ray Forsythe; Chief Michael McCoy, Deputy Chief Jeff Stevens, Fire Chief Brett Brown, Aldermen Cobb (virtual), Alderman Stevens, City Engineer, Dennis and WPD Admin Assistant, Linda Storer

**Citizens Present**

John & Sharon Amdall (virtual)

**1. Non-Member Alderman wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item**

Alderman Stevens stated that the topic of License Plate Readers trial period was discussed on a Committee level not the full Council as indicated in a memo.

Alderman Stevens asked if there is any specific item in the Police Budget dealing with traffic calming. She was advised by Chief McCoy that it doesn't have a specified line item in the PD budget.

**2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2021.**

A motion for approval by Chairman Butler; Motion to approve by Alderman Yoder and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Blundy.

**4. Business Items**

**A. Police Department – License Plate Reads**

Chief McCoy advised the Committee that the police department conducted its trial period using the FLOCK product. This item did not operate to expectations. In addition, installation was a problem the views were not robust enough. We discontinued the trial once this was known.

The PD will continue to investigate similar companies that have license plate readers.

## **B. Police Department – Personnel Additions**

The Administrative Officer is retiring. The department sought his replacement through Human Resources who advertised for the position. We believe that we have found an individual that completely satisfies the requirements, in house.

One PASS employee is taking on more responsibilities with both front desk duties and the department evidence section. This will increase some hours each week to cover this activity.

We have a certified list to replace the Officer that left last year. We are completing the last phase of testing which consists of a meeting with the Police Commission later this week.

The Council approved one officer this year and we are trying to attract current officers from other departments for lateral transfer.

Sgt. Gordon has verbally stated he will be retiring in late May-early June 2021.

Police Departments in Illinois are confronted with delays due to police training being full and unavailable. This is why lateral transfers are so important.

Lastly, two current Sergeants have applied out of state for positions in response to the recent police legislation and the current K-9 Officer is on a short list with the US Marshall Service.

## **C. K-9 Purchase Consideration**

The department has a donation from an estate for a K-9 dog, kennel and a fully equipped vehicle. A breeder is searching now for a new K-9 dog.

## **D. Enterprise Leasing**

Chief McCoy asked the Committee for their support on leasing vehicles.

After discussing the memo, Committee agreed to take it to the Committee of the Whole.

## **E. Liquor License Reclassification**

Chief McCoy and Deputy Chief Stevens worked on reducing the number of liquor licenses and proposed fees in the new draft ordinance.

Chief McCoy left the decision to the Committee and Council for further direction on the content of the ordinance. Alderman Blundy said the ordinance looked OK, Alderman Yoder said he would like to discuss the resolution on reduction of club fees with the whole Council.

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Chairman Butler as for a motion to pass to Council – Motion by Alderman Yoder and 2nd by Alderman Blundy. All voted-Aye.

#### **F. Police Department Update**

Chief McCoy reiterated strong concern to hire qualified police candidates.

WPD is enforcing distracted drivers again now that more people are out and about.

Police calls for service are up due to the the time of the season.

#### **G. Fire Department Update**

Chief Brown advised that call load is down in February but creeping up again. Drop in COVID calls by 3%. WFD is opening up again for small groups. The Cub Scouts were recently there to use the building. Chief Brown mentioned the two recent house fires (Catherine St & North St).

#### **5. Other Business**

Chairman Butler advised that there is a significant increase in TC3 fees. They use a formula to charge each city by population and calls for service when they prepare the annual bill.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Chairman Butler, Alderman Yoder motioned and Alderman Blundy 2nd. Adjourned at 5:29pm.