



City Council Public Safety Committee *Remote ONLY*** -
Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 5:00 PM
11/2/2022**

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Virtual Meeting, Burlington, Vermont

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Magee, Councilor Paul

Staff Present: Jared Pellerin (Assistant City Attorney), Stephanie Seguino (Chair of Police Commission), Jon Murad (Acting Chief of Police), Derek Libby (Acting Chief of Fire)

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Councilor Magee

1. Agenda

1.01 Motion to adopt/amend agenda

Motion to adopt agenda with change to swap Police Commission update and BPD update

Motion by Councilor Magee, Seconded by Councilor Paul

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2. Minutes

2.01 Approval of Minutes

Motion to adopt minutes from 8/23/22 meeting.

Motion by Councilor Magee, Seconded by Councilor Paul

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous



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3. Public Forum

3.01 Public Forum

No comment from public.

4. Committee Discussion/Possible Action

4.01 Police Commission Update

Stephanie S: As one of the commissioners has stepped down, they're looking forward to a new appointee due to the increase in workload on the commission. Noted it is not sustainable so more resources may be necessary to effectuate their ability to complete their work. Proposed a 'monitor' position to help with the Commission's work, their role would encompass reviewing citizen complaints, monitor the response to the complaints, amongst other things. This is a transformative moment in public safety in BTV, this is a prime opportunity to boost public communication and transparency between the public and the City.

Councilor Magee: Made note to ensure the Police Commission's outside counsel contract is on track for renewal come the end of the year and asked the City Attorney's Office to make sure that continues to move forward. Made note of the draft ordinance giving more oversight to the Police Commission, should be included in discussions going forward to stay on top of it. Attorney Jared Pellerin emphasized that the City Attorney's Office has it on the top of the list of to-dos, once a new City Attorney is hired the larger policy decisions will be discussed further.

4.02 Fire Department Updates on Staffing/Calls for Service

AC Libby: The Fire Dept. has posted some hybrid openings recently in hopes of filling some positions within fire dispatch then as recruit firefighters. They've had some qualified candidates apply so they are eager to interview and ultimately fill the roles posted. Calls for service hit a new record the other day for most calls in a year. Generally the amount of calls for service has been increasing gradually and doesn't look to be subsiding any time soon. New recruits will be working through the graduating academy classes which is scheduled to be completed in late December / early January. The next recruit academy will begin in the Spring of '23, ideally the Fire Dept. will be able to fill roles with the graduating classes.

4.03 BPD Updates on Hiring, Crisis Response Team, Deployment of CSOs & CSLs



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AC Murad: Went into detail about the current numbers pertaining to the staffing levels at BPD – they’ve lost one police officer and one CSL recently, but have two more additional CSL hires in the pipeline. BPD saw more priority one calls in September than they ever have since they started using the calling system in 2012. Additionally, the Chief and several others went down to Dallas, TX for a police conference where they were able to speak with fellow professionals in the law enforcement field and also attend numerous educational sessions pertaining to common police issues around the U.S. and how to remedy those issues.

Councilor Paul: When the leftover FY22 money was rolled over into BPD’s budget in FY23 to help spur the creation and maintenance of the so-called ‘CAHOOTS’ program. Councilor Paul inquired for an update on the program from Acting Chief Murad.

AC Murad: The administration asked him to prepare a memo around the CAHOOTS program development – with the public safety challenges recently faced, and the falling headcount, it has been challenging to get the program up and running. Instead, BPD contracted with an implementer to help set up the program, they are filling out an RFP to get additional funding from the State to bridge the gap between the current budget for the program, and the actual cost that the program requires. While at the convention, Chief spoke with other department heads about their programs similarly designed to the desired CAHOOTS outlook. BPD got some ideas as to how to go about implementing other services beyond responding to immediate safety issues.

Councilor Magee: Happy to hear about the progress on the CAHOOTS implementation as it is a top priority. Looking at the data from Dallas’ Star Program, it’s very promising statistics make for a greater hope of success in BTV. Councilor Magee asked for an update on call center staffing levels.

AC Murad: The call center is understaffed with only 6 employees currently. The Fire Department is working to assume the call center duties within their own department. Regionalization of the call center may take place sometime in 2023, so that seems to be a major challenge in trying to fill these positions. Full-time staff are working mandatory overtime to maintain the phones in the call center and will continue to do so until enough part-time hires can be made.

Councilor Magee: What would the staffing number look like at the regional call center?

AC Libby: Staffing numbers were in the 30s, but it is contingent on current call center employees transitioning over to the new regional facility.

4.04 Discussion of Future Business

Councilor Magee: Before December, would like to discuss the CNA report drafted by the previous Public Safety Committee. Hopes to see progress given the amount of time has passed, but understands that some changes are significant and will require more time.



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1. Any Other Business

N/A.

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Councilor Paul, Seconded by Councilor Magee

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm