



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Approved: 08/05/2020

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Cynthia Greene, Nicholas Fowler, Erik Anderson, Evan Church, Adam Brenneman, Bryant Seton, Kevin Kreitman

Commissioners absent: Loyd Henion

Staff present: Marcia Harnden, Police Chief; Shane Wooton, Fire Chief; Shelby Draper, Administrative Assistant I

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### February 5, 2020

MOTION: Anderson motioned to approve the minutes of February 5, 2020. Brenneman seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

#### SCHEDULED BUSINESS

##### Business from the Public

None.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

##### Fire Update – Chief Wooton

Chief Wooton presented the call volume report. The number of calls has had a drop since COVID-19, within the last three weeks the call volume has stayed consistent with last year's calls. Chief discussed the top calls so far this year. Further discussion followed on the response report.

Chief Wooton announced that the Public Safety Levy passed! The department's Battalion Chief, Kevin Anderson, will be retiring at the end of this month. Fire Lieutenant, Kevin Vining, was chosen to promote to Battalion Chief. Due to the promotion, the department is unable to fund a replacement fire fighter. The department currently is down three fire fighter positions and one deputy fire marshal position.

Wooton gave a department update on the current situation with the worldwide pandemic, COVID-19. He said with all the changes from CDC and OHA, the department is remaining flexible and adjusting accordingly. There have been employees who have had to be quarantined. Chief said the department had to adjust and treat as if all patients have had or been in contact with COVID-19. Department personnel ordered black rain suits that can be disinfected properly after each call. This process worked well in the beginning, but with warmer weather the department went back to disposable gowns. Chief Wooton said the personnel at the stations are required

to wear masks to continue precautions. The department apparatus is decontaminated using Aeroclave to prevent the spread of the virus between patients and personnel.

Chief Wooton said the City of Millersburg will be building a new permanent station to replace the current temporary station. The design process has started. Next spring, the construction process will start. The station will be located off Old Salem Road, south of Conser Road which will make for good response times and city coverage.

#### Police Update – Chief Harnden

Chief Harnden presented the crime trends in the city during COVID-19. Chief discussed the jail issues associated with the virus outbreak. She said courts are just now reopening with strict restrictions and are making appropriate adjustments. The department fundamentally has changed, and the staffing is down. Chief said she had to deny time off due to employees having to be quarantined and short staffed, which saved the department in overtime costs during that time. Chief Harnden stated that the daily PPE (personal protective equipment) changed how officers perform daily tasks, Aeroclave has been used to decontaminate department fleet vehicles, and temperature checks are now required for all department personnel.

Harnden said the department has dropped to 61 sworn personnel, which makes three current vacancies. With the retirement of Officer Aaron Davis in July, there will be four vacancies in the department. Because of the economic impact, the department has two positions on hold.

Chief Harnden discussed the crime rates. She is predicting 2020 to be a high crime rate year. Currently, there has been one homicide and two traffic fatalities so far for this calendar year. Chief also presented the departments organizational chart to show personnel positions within the department. She stated the annual report has been uploaded to the department website.

Chief Harnden discussed the recent protest event in Albany. The department received a lot of help from surrounding agencies. Chief was very pleased with the outcome. There were no crimes committed during the event. Chief Harnden said there were about 40 officers within the crowd for preventative measures. This event costs the department in overtime but was very organized with the incident command team made of members from all different agencies.

Harnden said the Albany Police Association and the Albany Police Benevolent Association is looking at putting together a wellness program for physical and mental well-being of the department staff. This July, the department will have a small gym which is nonfunded.

#### Budget Update- Police & Fire

Chief Harnden explained both fire and police take up about 65% of the City's budget. In early February, the city manager had given department directors potential financial cut numbers. Which between fire and police was millions of dollars. Chief Harnden said the department may be looking at cutting 12 positions and/or programs with only having reactive policing.

Chief Wooton explained he was also given financial cut numbers. The department is looking at cutting 13 position. Chief Wooton shared that out of the 90 employees, 75 are emergency personnel responders. Chief said fire fighter layoffs could potentially cause the loss of a fully staffed fire station.

Both Chief Wooton and Chief Harnden tried reprioritizing budgets prior to the pandemic outbreak. Albany continues to grow with backwards regression. Public Safety needs a long-term revenue source. Chief Wooton and Chief Harden asked the commission for help on keeping police/fire intact and coming up with a long-term solution. During this pandemic, police and fire are both essential and the core of keeping the community safe. Commissioner Kevin Kreitman said the commission needs to help get police and fire on a steady funding stream. Chair President Cynthia Greene agreed needing a unified effort.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is will be August 5, 2020. A virtual meeting invitation will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shelby Draper*  
Administrative Assistant I