



MINUTES

Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

9:30 AM - April 5, 2018

City Hall Executive Briefing Room - Plaza 111, Sammamish, WA

Committee Members Present: Deputy Mayor Karen Moran
Councilmember Chris Ross
Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present: Deputy City Manager Jessi Bon
Emergency Manager Andrew Stevens
Police Chief Michelle Bennett
Management Analyst Mike Sugg
Administrative Assistant Tammy Mueller

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Valderrama called the meeting to order 9:30 a.m.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Deputy Mayor Moran stepped down as Public Safety Committee Chair.

Deputy Mayor Moran nominated Councilmember Valderrama for the position of Public Safety Committee Chair. There were no other nominations.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Karen Moran moved to elect Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama to the position of Public Safety Committee Chair. Councilmember Chris Ross seconded. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Councilmember Valderrama was elected to the position of Public Safety Committee Chair.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

February 22, 2018 Special Meeting

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Karen Moran moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama seconded. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PUBLIC SAFETY RELATED TOPICS

No public comment was provided.

TOPICS

Police Services Study - Committee Kick-Off Meeting

- Management Analyst Sugg introduced Police Service Study BERK consultants Principal Brian Murphy and GIS Analyst Ben Silver. Principal Murphy and GIS Analyst Silver requested input from the Committee regarding the Police Services Study, providing a [handout](#) for the Committee's review.
- The Committee requested that BERK be transparent of the role of the Public Safety Committee in the Police Services Study process as well as showing both the meetings with the Public Safety Committee and the City Council on their project schedule.
- The Committee requested that the study include a report on the full scope of police resources currently available as well as the frequency the resources are utilized.
- Staff suggested inviting the King County Sheriff Johanknecht to give a presentation either to the Public Safety Committee or the full City Council on topics which might be informative and assist the Committee or Council in providing feedback and direction to the Police Services Study. Staff will collaborate further on what topic(s) would be beneficial.
- Staff suggested that BERK investigate how recently changed laws affect the level of service and resources required by police.
- Staff suggested inviting Management Analyst David Goodman to a Public Safety Committee meeting to provide an update on the municipal court contract.
- The Committee requested that the study include the stratification of the number of resources required for each police activity to assist in comparisons with other cities as well as determinations of future resource needs.
- The Committee requested that the Police Services Study tie in with other current City efforts (i.e. PRO Plan, Human Services Needs Assessment) to combine efforts and "kill two birds with one stone" whenever possible to best utilize limited resources.
- The Committee requested that BERK also meet with the Chamber of Commerce when conducting focus groups with external stakeholders.
- The Committee requested whether there were services currently being provided by trained police officers which could instead be performed by untrained officers or others in the community. Chief Bennett responded that house checks meet this criteria. This service is performed when formally requested by residents who are leaving their house vacant for extended periods of time. Currently, the police will check the house one-two times per week for the duration of its vacancy.
 - The Committee proposed limiting this to three times throughout the duration of the house's vacancy as some homes are left vacant for several months, creating a drain on limited police resources.
 - Charging fees for this service was discussed but discarded due to liability concerns.
- Chief Bennett briefed the Committee on the topic of limited supervisory resources. Due to the current allotment of three patrol sergeants being assigned to the City of Sammamish, Sammamish police supervisors are generally only available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Outside of these normal business hours, supervisory officers are not generally available. In an emergency, there is no designated point of contact should a

supervisor be needed outside of these hours. Chief Bennett expressed concerns over the liability surrounding this and recommended that staffing resources be increased to allow for 24/7 supervisor availability.

- Merging certain services/augmenting staffing resources with Precinct 2 was discussed, specifically with regard to administrative staff and sergeants. Precinct 2 currently leases space on the second floor of City Hall.
- BERK is scheduled to return to update the Public Safety Committee in June, prior to the July 10 City Council update.

Fireworks Ordinance Revision

1. Status Update - Ordinance to Council in May 2018

- Chief Bennett provided a summary of the issue, citing that the current ordinance, as written, effectively only allows officers to issue citations occurring on public property, not private. A proposed [draft of the ordinance](#) was provided for the Committee's review.
- The Committee discussed whether Eastside Fire & Rescue officers, while patrolling on the 4th of July, could document infractions via photographs given the limited resources of Police officers on the 4th of July. The idea was discarded as it was determined that the evidence would not hold up in court.
- The proposed penalty increase for possession of fireworks from \$500 to \$1,000 was discussed by the Committee and rejected. The penalty will remain \$500.
- The need to publicize the changes and create awareness in the community was discussed.
- The Committee proposed adding language to [SMC 8.10.130](#) to create a penalty tier system for fireworks discharge civil infractions: the first infraction penalty would be \$1,000, the second \$5,000, and the third \$10,000.

Emergency Management Plan

1. Program Update

- Emergency Manger Stevens provided a [program update](#) to the Committee.
- Emergency Manager Stevens informed the Committee that he is now a member of the LWSD Public Safety Task Force. The Committee suggested that Emergency Manger Stevens participate in their 2-3 day August staff training event.
- The Committee suggested proposing the creation of youth leadership programs to the schools. These programs would offer emergency training opportunities to student members. Chief Bennett stated that the Explorer Program had just been initiated and, as membership builds, it could help serve this function.
- The Committee requested information from staff as to whether further discussions have occurred with King County regarding treating emergency response for Sammamish as an island rather than similarly to its neighboring cities given the limited number of entrances/exits to the City. Staff responded that this topic is a continued topic of discussion with King County.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

EMS Levy Updates (ongoing 2018)

Police Services Study (ongoing 2018)

OTHER

Policy Regarding Councilmembers' Participation in Partisan Groups

- The Committee has previously proposed adding this as a future meeting topic. They are now proposing to bring this topic before the full City Council and suggesting it be remanded to the work plan for the Governance Committee.

NEXT MEETING DATE

TBD

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Ramiro Valderrama moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.