

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

May 8, 2012
11:30 AM
Council Chambers (hosted by FECC)

PSC Members:	John Eberhart (Seat A - 2014)	Robert Fox (Seat E - 2012)
	Bill Satterberg (Seat B - 2012)	Greg Taylor (FFD Appointee)
	Peter Stern (Seat C - 2013)	Robert Hall (FPD Appointee)
	Buzzy Chiu (Seat D - 2014)	

Meeting Minutes

CALLED TO ORDER: 11:35 am

ATTENDANCE:

PSC Members: John Eberhart, Bill Satterberg, Peter Stern, Buzzy Chiu, Robert Fox, Greg Taylor and Robert Hall

Others in attendance: Mayor Jerry Cleworth, Stephanie Johnson* and Bonnie Nolan–FECC, Dave Burglin–CAO, Chief Laren Zager, Deputy Chief Johnson* and Lt. Eric Jewkes*–FPD; Chief Warren Cummings and Lisa Howard–FFD. (*arrived late)

ADOPT AGENDA: Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: The minutes of April 17, 2012 meeting were approved without changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Seat E: Robert Fox replaces Frank Eagle for Seat E, confirmed by City Council on 5/7/12.

Police Vehicles Chief Zager reported that the project has been turned over to Purchasing for bid process. Depending on bid price, there are up to three Ford Explorers and four Subarus expected to be purchased.

Code Changes, Ordinance Update and False 911 Calls Ordinance (postpone until Lt Jewkes arrives.)

Role of the Public Safety Commission Peter Stern indicated that research has revealed that few cities have PSC's. He had sample documents from Anchorage and Piedmont, California which were sent to all committee members after the meeting. A draft of a revision for FGC Section 2-471 Public Safety Commission was handed out by Mayor Cleworth. Major changes were in composition of the committee, with no union representation from Police & Fire; removal of City Council concurrence for selection of committee chairperson; and changes to roles/powers. Summary of comments.

- Generally agreed that representation from the "rank and file" has merit, but varied options on whether they should be resources (like dept heads), retain a seat on the committee as ex-officio members or become full voting members.
- General consensus that proposal removes functions but doesn't add anything, and was more vague and generalized and didn't give committee defined tasks or focus. No specific support of the proposed changes but many opposing.

NEW BUSINESS:

FPD Report – Officer Hall reviewed the April 2012 statistics report. He stated that there is an increase in vehicle theft – often crimes of opportunity when vehicles left unlocked and/or keys in vehicle. Significant increase in bar fights, and bar inspections are being stepped up. Cautioned that when bars take an aggressive stance of intolerance to violence and bad behavior, it may result in more calls to a particular bar, but that these establishments shouldn't be punished – it is actually because the bouncers and bar owners are doing a good job. John Eberhart echoed that point.

Mr. Satterberg asked if there had been contact with military officials to discuss return of soldiers from overseas and providing them assistance with the transition. Chief Zager and his staff have participated in briefings on this topic.

Lt. Jewkes reported that the 911 false calls ordinance passed, and he is working with Director Johnson at FECC for appropriate phrasing to warn callers making these type of calls. The false alarms code revision is in draft and there was discussion between alarms monitored by the City or private companies. Alarm permits need to be either enforced universally or eliminated.

FFD Report – Chief Cummings reviewed the fire and ambulance response statistics for April 2012. He also reported that the current labor contract has been before the City Council for first reading and is due for 2nd reading and a vote on May 21st, and if passed, then will go on to the union members for ratification. When asked about his sense of whether the membership would pass it, Greg Taylor reported that the union members have not seen it yet and while the broad strokes have been generally discussed the details will have to be reviewed before anyone can make a decision.

Chief Cummings gave a grant report update, reporting that the SCBA purchase has been approved by Council and will be going to bid next month. He also said that department heads are working on a project list for the HLS grant when it opens. Under the State budget, there are two projects still in the draft budget – the medium duty ambulance and an increase in the warm storage at Public Works. Question was raised about the med duty ambulance and its increased size. Chief Cummings reported that it is 40” longer, 7” taller and 2” wider and will fit in the bays at FMH. Its GVW increases by 50% - the current ambulances are at GVW before fully loaded with patients and medics. It may be used for bariatric patients (300#+) and is expected to be equipped with a lift.

FECC Report – Director Stephanie Johnson reported things are generally status quo. They are exploring a Soldotna – FECC 911 call center and ALMR radio back up, which is a planned component of the call taking agreement. Discussion that 459-6500 used to be a direct line for dispatch and that it needs to have some direction for people who may still have it listed as a contact.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Members are to email any comments or thoughts they have on the draft PSC ordinance to Lisa for dissemination. Lisa will also email out the sample materials from Peter Stern to all members.

Mayor Cleworth reported that the downtown foot patrol will occur again this summer. He also said that he received a letter from the fire dept union that they were not happy with the proposed new medium duty ambulance and has not decided how the city will deal with it yet.

It was confirmed that Housing First is open and it is a sprinklered building.

Officer Hall added that on May 19th, 10AM at UAF there will be the Special Olympics Torch Run. Channel 11 will be covering it; anyone can send him an email for more information.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 12, 2012 (FPD)

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

