

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2021

Call to Order: 1:19 PM

Attendance:

PSCHC Members Present: CM Kinnear; CP Beggs; CM Stratton; CM Cathcart; CM Mumm; CM Wilkerson, and CM Burke.

Staff/Others Present: Mike Ormsby, Chief Craig Meidl, Justin Lundgren, Eric Olsen, Michael McNab, Meghann Steinolfson, Chief Brian Schaeffer, Jay Atwood, Patrick Striker, Sandi McIntyre, Paul Ingiosi, Shauna Harshman, David Paine, Erik Poulsen, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

Approval of March 29, 2021 minutes: Motion to approve by CM Wilkerson; M/S by CM Cathcart. The committee approved the minutes from the March 29, 2021 PSCHC meeting unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Monthly Reports:

1. OPO Monthly Update – March 2021
2. Photo Red Update (SPD)
3. May Strategic Initiatives Report (SPD)
4. 1st Quarter Asset Forfeiture Report (SPD)

Consent Agenda Portion:

1. Contract Renewal for Administration of False Alarm Program (SPD)
 2. Contract with Environmental Control of Spokane to Perform Janitorial Services (SFD)
 3. Consultant agreement with Cortner Architectural Company and SBO for A&E services for the Combined Communications Building (CCB) (SFD)
 4. 2021 Arterial Chip Seal – Economic Recovery (Public Works)
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STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Strategic Priority: Integrated 911/Dispatch

NONE

Strategic Priority: Integrated Response

NONE

Strategic Priority: Criminal Justice Reform

Sgt. Spiering Update (5 minutes)

Sgt. Spiering was at a statewide conference and was unable to attend this meeting.

Strategic Priority: City-Wide Clean & Safe

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Requests:

Discussion about Lieutenants & Captains Tentative Agreement (TA) –Meghann Steinolfson (5 minutes)

Meghann Steinolfson explained that the previous labor agreement expired in 2016. She said that this TA builds off the recently approved Police Guild contract and that the negotiations for this TA, which began in 2018 were paused pending the progress of the Police Guild negotiations. Ms. Steinolfson gave Council an overview of the negotiations that resulted in this TA, which covers the years 2017-2021. The total cost of compensation in this TA is 2.9%. The wages reflect those negotiated with the Police Guild. Ms. Steinolfson reviewed the total cost of the contract, which is estimated to be \$992,000 – most of which is comprised of retroactive backpay. Ms. Steinolfson reviewed the independent oversight authority adopted in the contract. She mentioned that the Lieutenants & Captains Association agreed with all the additions negotiated by the Police Guild for their contract. Ms. Steinolfson reviewed the agreement on the Director of Police Business Services position. The Director will assume supervisory responsibilities of Police Records and the SPD Property Facility. The Director will assume those supervisory responsibilities upon contract ratification.

FireComm Staffing Update – Chief Schaeffer (10 minutes)

Chief Schaeffer reviewed the request for additional staffing to become self-sustaining and ensure a safe environment for Communication Specialists, Firefighters, and the Public. Chief Schaeffer noted that public safety needs to be a regional solution in order to be fully sustainable. CM Kinnear said that Chief Schaeffer's comment sounded editorial. CM Cathcart noted that in the document that was sent out it looked like there are six positions. Chief Schaeffer said that there are three firefighters who will return to operations, which will result in the need for three new positions to move into the unit. Chief Schaeffer said in all the unit will be 14 FTE total. CM Kinnear reminded everyone that it has been a long, complicated, and painful process to get to this point. CM Mumm thanked the Council for their work to get to this point and supported the high standard we have with Local 29 and the dispatch system.

Council Requests:

C.O.P.S Proposal for Community Safety Positions – Patrick Striker & Lori Kinnear (10 minutes)

Patrick Striker and Sandi McIntyre talked about the need for additional C.O.P.S positions meant to increase his team's effectiveness and responsiveness. Mr. Striker talked about the importance of focusing on crime prevention. Mr. Striker highlighted the cost savings related to crime prevention. Mr. Striker talked about the Graffiti Cleanup position and the importance of keeping visual blight out of our neighborhoods. Mr. Striker talked about the importance of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). He mentioned that it is one of the most critical and effective methods for deterring the

risk of crime. He talked about the need for a CPTED Coordinator position. Mr. Striker gave an overview of the Victim Advocate positions and the need for additional staffing in this area. CM Cathcart said he likes the idea of these positions and asked if there would be a need to bargain with the Guild to add them. Mr. Striker said he did not think so. CM Cathcart asked if Mr. Striker would supervise these positions. Mr. Striker confirmed that he would. CM Stratton encouraged Council Members to visit the C.O.P.S if they haven't already. CM Kinnear thanked Mr. Striker for the presentation.

AMR Contract Discussion – Chief Schaeffer & CP Beggs (10 minutes)

Council President Beggs said that he was hoping to hear more about the proposed contract from Chief Schaeffer. Chief Schaeffer gave a high-level overview and said that his team provided a look across the spectrum for comparables in similar-sized locations.

Proposed Ordinance Implementing Sign Fees for Graffiti & Visual Blight Abatement – Brian McClatchey & CM Kinnear (5 minutes)

Giacobbe Byrd presented on this proposed ordinance and said that it would do two things. First, it would adjust the sign permit fee section of the Building Code to impose an annual fee (\$250) for large billboards and off-premises signs. And second, it would establish a city fund to which those fees would be directed. Mr. Byrd said Council would disburse these funds through an annual grant process, with funding prioritized for the East Central, West Central, and Hillyard neighborhoods. He said that Shae Blackwell (Council Member Cathcart's Legislative Assistant) suggested adding Peaceful Valley to the list of prioritized neighborhoods as well. Mr. Byrd said the money in this fund would be awarded solely for graffiti clean-up and abatement, removal of unauthorized signs posted in the public right of way or on public property, and remediation of visual blight conditions like graffiti, unauthorized stickers, and posters placed on public property. CM Wilkerson asked where the money to do this work currently comes from. CM Kinnear said that the City pays for it unless it is on private property then the property owner is responsible. CM Cathcart asked if there is a direct nexus between the poll signs and graffiti and asked if we get any restitution from those caught. CM Kinnear said that it is fairly difficult to catch those who are tagging. Chief Meidl concurred that taggers are rarely caught. CP Beggs said yes, those who are caught would be required to provide restitution of some kind.

SBO for Fleet Replacement Funds – CM Burke (5 minutes)

CM Burke asked to have a discussion with Council Members on whether there is interest in police reform legislation at the local level before approving additional funding for SPD. Council President Beggs said that he would be happy to talk about where the City is at in that discussion process with both the administration and community. David Paine pointed out that this fleet replacement funding is what would be used to upgrade the recent SPD Tesla purchases.

Discussion about Recruitment Underway for Civil Rights Position – CM Kinnear & CP Beggs (5 minutes)

CM Kinnear said that Council has funded this position for the last three years and now we are finally seeing some headway. CP Beggs and CM Kinnear thanked the Mayor and her HR team for working hard to get this position filled. CP Beggs also thanked Cupid Alexander for pursuing having this position filled

first as a project employee while this position gets up and running. CM Cathcart said that in the job description language about regulating short sales jumped out to him. CP Beggs said he wasn't sure about this particular language and would defer to Mr. Alexander on that.

CM Kinnear asked Chief Meidl about the operating hours and accessibility of the downtown precinct, as she had trouble accessing it this morning. Chief Meidl said he would follow-up.

State Legislative Update:

Update on State Legislation Related to Policing – CP Beggs (5 minutes)

CP Beggs updated Council on the state legislation surrounding policing. He highlighted legislation that put limitations on tear gas, no-knock warrants, investigations of serious use of force incidents, changes in arbitration rules, and other items. He said that there was particular emphasis on de-escalation in the eight or so bills that passed. CP Beggs said that Mary Muramatsu has agreed to come back and give a more detailed report on the specific legislation. CM Stratton asked if the entire City Council will be invited to the community conversation led by the Mayor. CP Beggs said the initial group is a small group but once that group has their conversation, it will be expanded to others in the community. CM Stratton asked if there are Council Members on the smaller group. CP Beggs said that it is just him. CM Kinnear said her ask is that any Council Member who would like to attend be able to do so. CM Burke reminded her colleagues that Council is the legislative body and said that she believes Council is best suited to lead these conversations. CP Beggs said the existing conversation, as conceived, is less about policy and more about deep listening. CM Wilkerson noted that there is nothing keeping Council from holding its own community conversation.

ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:

NONE

Action Items: NONE

Executive Session: NONE

Adjournment: CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 2:17PM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, June 7, 2021.

Attachments/Briefing Papers: Contract Renewal for Administration of False Alarm Program (SPD); Contract with Environmental Control of Spokane to Perform Janitorial Services (SFD); Consultant agreement with Cortner Architectural Company and SBO for A&E services for the Combined Communications Building (CCB) (SFD); 2021 Arterial Chip Seal – Economic Recovery (Public Works); Discussion about Lieutenants & Captains Tentative Agreement (HR); C.O.P.S Proposal for Community Safety Positions (COPS); Proposed AMR Contract (SFD); SBO for Fleet Replacement Funds (SPD); and Civil Rights Position Posting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Giacobbe Byrd, Legislative Aide to Council Member Lori Kinnear (PSCHC Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Kinnear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Committee Chair Approval

Lori Kinnear

Spokane City Council – District 2