

**PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

**PRESENT**

- Mayor Jill Boudreau
- Council Members
  - Richard Brocksmith
  - Iris Carias
  - Mary Hudson
  - Mark Hulst
  - Joe Lindquist
  - Gary Molenaar
- Police Chief Jerry Dodd
- Project Development Manager Peter Donovan
- Fire Chief Bryan Brice
- Library Director Isaac Hoffman
- City Attorney Kevin Rogerson
- Parks Director Bill King

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Council Member Mark Hulst. Due to computer problems, Council Member Hulst will forego approval of the last Public Safety Committee Meeting minutes.

**OUTREACH COORDINATOR ERIN VON FEMPE**

OC von Fempe discussed mental health care changes occurring at the State level and the effects they are having/will have on our homeless population and others. State abdicated all control to private care agencies. Erin shared stories of three nameless individuals with whom she has been working.

- Lack of State funding and not enough staff, programs, and supervised housing for individuals with mental health issues contribute to the homeless population.

**POLICE CHIEF JERRY DODD**

Discussed Downtown Riverwalk emphasis; a concerted team effort among the downtown merchants, Friendship House, various City departments, and all divisions of MVPD, including our volunteers.

- High visibility in the downtown zone has had a huge impact
  - There have been a lot of positive contacts, communications, and comments
  - Police calls have decreased
- Will continue through September and then reevaluate
- Crime Prevention meets with Friendship House every other week to keep updated on current issues

PD budget is built over a one year process and the numbers presented truly represent what is needed for PD to run programs and protect the citizens and City of Mount Vernon

- PD Strategic plan shows trends of what we are as an organization and what we'll look like in the future and is on our website
- Staffing continues to be a challenge and we're continuing with our hiring process

Hired private security for Mount Vernon Municipal Court who will work four hours every Tuesday. Also added alarms and cameras.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY KEVIN ROGERSON**

- City Attorney Rogerson has worked with the Mayor, City Parks Director, and Police Department to come up with rules to adhere to to make our parks enjoyable for visitors.
- Provided Mayor and Council with draft policy then discussed, explained, and answered questions regarding the proposed ordinance to adopt Parks Code
- This will be address again on 09/19/18

#### **FIRE CHIEF BRYAN BRICE**

Chief Brice provided an EMS update regarding various meetings, and the groups who have looked at capital and assets, scope of work, response zones, legal issues, and finances.

- Assets have been decided on and divided up
- Issues being worked on with 911 center and are close to finalization
- Hanging chad is financial piece
  - Chief will work with Financial Director and Mayor on these one-time costs
  - Council needs to be aware we may have to put nose to grindstone come budget time
- Trying to do collective hiring process so applicant pools aren't submitting four different resumes, applications, etc.
  - Hope to have everyone settled in by first part of December

#### **Fire Station One Update**

- RFQ done and got requests for proposals from several entities
- Will look at current and future needs of two other fire stations
- Time line will be completed prior to date we have to file for bond

#### **MAYOR JILL BOUDREAU**

##### **Library Project Update**

- Working toward broad goals and discussed with Skagit County
- Conceptual costs – will put hard copies in electronic folders
- Provided document showing final concept
- Revenue scenario is same as Council has seen prior
- Had conference call about making request for Governor's budget
  - Would like expert project manager to come on board, assess, and evaluate
  - Showed quick video on alternative delivery (OAC)
    - Would like to get consultant to help us do this evaluation allowing us to make a good informed decision in January
    - County has offered to pay half of cost
    - Mayor will put something out tomorrow or Friday
- Discussion on how to approach requests of people to approach Council.
  - Out of respect for City business and staff, Council Meetings need to be kept to Council/City business

- Once request is received, will get Council consensus prior to putting on agenda
- Mayor to attend meeting for Women Mayors in Washington DC
  - Will leave 09/19/18 and return 09/02/18
  - Fly back 09/20 day after conference

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.