

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 25, 2016

Councilor Kirwan called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Present were Councilor Hardin (arrived at 6:18), City Manager Byron Smith, Chief Edmiston, Captain Travis Eynon, Sergeant Scott Clark, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, Sergeant Kelly Parsons, Officer Erica Sandoval, Lilly Alarcon-Strong and members of the audience.

Personnel Update

Chief Edmiston stated Captain Johnson has given a retirement date of June 2017, and is confident the department will be able to fill Captain Johnson's position internally.

Chief Edmiston stated Officer Victor Gutierrez has completed his Associate's Degree and Sergeant Kelly Parsons has completed his Master's Degree.

Chief Edmiston stated Captain Eynon and Captain Johnson have switched positions. Captain Eynon is now the patrol captain and Captain Johnson is the administrative captain. The switch was made to introduce different leadership styles to all personnel in the department.

(Councilor Hardin arrived 6:18pm)

2nd Quarter Crime Report

Chief Edmiston stated calls for service are relatively flat, but arrests are up by 1%, which shows officers are staying active. There have been an unusual number of incidents that have resulted in aggravated assaults. Although the numbers of assaults are in the normal range, it will continue to be monitored. Auto theft has decreased, which Chief Edmiston hopes is due to the fact people are starting to understand that by not leaving valuables in vehicles and locking vehicles there is less chance of theft.

Councilor Kirwan asked what the statistics are for officer involved use of force.

Chief Edmiston stated he feels the percentage is about the same as the year prior, but will have Captain Eynon get the specific numbers and percentages with total arrests made and use of force. Chief Edmiston stated use of force is less than what is perceived. When there is a use of force incident, the officer reports the incident and it goes up the chain of command for review, including viewing the body camera footage.

Councilor Hardin asked if there are follow up service calls regarding incidents.

Chief Edmiston stated depending on the circumstances and incidents, usually yes, within 72 hours.

1-year Snapshot of Youth Officer Position

Officer Sandoval stated the new position has been a very good experience. The position works specifically with the School District dealing with mostly truancy issues for ages K-5. The position also helps build relationships with law enforcement and children at an early age with interaction on a more personal basis and positive setting and manner: having lunch, reading with children, promoting safety, and higher education, etc. Officer Sandoval stated she has been provided an office at the School District and meets with families regarding truancy when scheduled by School District Administration.

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She provides resources for at risk families and helps parents understand their responsibilities, as well as perform welfare checks. Officer Sandoval stated she is looking forward to another successful year.

Councilor Kirwan asked what the process is for parents who receive truancy citations.

Officer Sandoval stated the School District Administration issues the citation; she is invited to the meeting to inform the parents or guardians of the process. But, she and the School District make every attempt to correct the truancy issues before a citation is given.

Councilor Hardin stated he believes this is a great program that is able to reach out to children at an earlier age in their life. And it is great to see officers interact with the youth and community in a positive manner.

Chief Edmiston stated Officers Cobian and Wallace played basketball with the community at the 3 on 3 Taking it to the Streets basketball event. Officer Cobian is also the officer known as the dancing cop.

Umatilla County Fair Preparation

Chief Edmiston stated the police department continues to work with the Sheriff's Office for security at the fairgrounds during the Umatilla County Fair and Rodeo. There may-be changes to the security detail once the fairgrounds move to the EOTEC site.

National Night Out

Chief Edmiston stated there will be a proclamation read during the City Council meeting regarding National Night Out which will be held Thursday, August 2nd. Medallion clues will start being mentioned in the paper starting tomorrow, the winner of the medallion will have an ice cream social served by the City Council at their event.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.