

**CITY OF MONONA  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Conference Room  
5211 Schluter Road  
Wednesday- January 27, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

**2. Roll Call:**

**Committee Members Present:** Jim Bisbee (ZOOM), Glenn Rehberg (ZOOM), Larry Reed (ZOOM), Kathy Thomas (ZOOM), Nancy Moore (ZOOM), Connie Miley (ZOOM), Joe Fontaine (ZOOM), Chris Henderson (ZOOM) and Angela Davis (ZOOM).

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Interim Police Chief Deuman (ZOOM), Fire Chief McMullen (ZOOM) and Lieutenant Curtis Wiegel (ZOOM).

**Others Present:** Mayor Mary O'Connor (Zoom), Mary Delaney (ZOOM) Nadia Dominguez (ZOOM) and Kristie Goforth (ZOOM).

**3. Minutes:** A motion was made by Bisbee, seconded by Fontaine, to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2020 meeting. Minutes approved as corrected.

**4. Appearances:**

Mayor Mary O'Connor, was present and spoke about the new Safe at Home Initiative. Mayor O'Connor working with Alders Thomas and Moore and Police and Fire Chiefs. Have decided to put together a monthly tip sheet of suggestions for things people can do to feel safer in their homes. Plan to distribute the information via the City Website, FD and PD social media, the new city e-newsletter, sharing with the Senior Center newsletter, public safety announcements on WVMO, etc. Alders Thomas and Moore will be discussing this in more detail during the meeting and we would appreciate suggestions and support of the initiative.

Kristie Goforth, 4515 Gordon Ave. was not present; but provided information to consider regarding the COVID situation. "Thank you all for your service to our community. I wanted to alert the committee that Winnequah School began their reopening plan on Monday, January 25th for grades 4K-2. After the first day of class, there was a Covid exposure so the in-person option is closed for the next two weeks. While this falls under the school district, it is still a public safety issue.

I felt it was important for the commission and the public to be aware that Covid is still very much present in our community so we must remain vigilant in wearing our masks, not gathering in groups, and taking all other safety precautions.”

**5. Unfinished Business:**

**a) Discussion of Bike Registration**

As of Jan 5, Madison will no longer be requiring the bike registration so we will also be able to move forward. Madison is considering national options for the registry. Would seem to make sense for us to do the same. Would like Interim Chief Deuman to weigh in on options as well.

Interim Chief Deuman has not yet had a chance to look closely at the two national registration options. Will take a look at both by the next meeting and report back.

Alder Moore also concurs it would make sense to wait for Madison and follow a similar path. May also be a good idea to check with other area communities. Added that it may be something to dovetail with our Safe at Home Initiative so we could promote which direction we are going.

Member Reed echoed that it would be good idea to have a uniform option in the metro area since the bike trails incorporate many communities. Also believes it would be good to include in the Safe at Home public safety initiative.

Alder Thomas advised we want to strive for consistency and to make it easy for the police department to find the owners of lost bikes. Once we have completed our research we would recommend to the council the elimination of the bicycle registration ordinance. We will keep in tune with city of mad and other adjacent municipalities as well.

**6. New Business:**

**a) Discussion of “Safe at Home” Public Education Initiative**

Alder Thomas advised the initiative started from a discussion about cars being stolen with keys, valuables or garage door openers inside. We feel it’s important to do a good job of educating the community. There are many opportunities to communicate this information to the community and we are hoping to reach a large portion of the community.

Communication has always been a challenge for the city. One of the reasons we are able to launch this now is that we have recently filled a vacant position in the media department who will help coordinate some of this education.

Some suggestions for outlets to communicate the information are the new City e-newsletter, WVMO, City Sign Board at Monona Bank, Community events such as National Night Out, the Monona Community Festival., National night out, Fire prevention week, through the Chamber, the Monona Senior Center, or possibly School Newsletters.

Ideas for education include Fireworks safety tips and providing safety tips to the fireworks vendors to provide or messages on WVMO. Also possible partnerships with organizations such as the Red Cross who have a program where they install fire alarms. Posting material in grocery stores or other non-Profit and Faith organizations (e.g. the food pantry).

Discussion about including the information in the Senior Center newsletters. May be able to refer and utilize some existing organizations such as Project home and Triad.

MOFD recently promoted a new Fire Safety Officer, Kris Halverson, who also works at the schools so will also get her involved in the initiative.

First e-newsletter to go out Feb 10 so will get together with staff over the next few weeks to get the information out. Will likely talk about ideas in future meetings.

**b) Discussion of City Administrator email to Public Safety Committee to provide input into the Chief Search.**

City Administrator sent an email to PSC members with a link to complete a survey as well as information about a public listening session so they would provide information into the search for the new Chief of Police. IF anyone did not get the email please advise and I will forward the email.

PFC has also involved Nehemiah in the search. PFC impressed on GovHR that they wanted to maximize public engagement.

Alder Thomas would like to encourage all members to participate in the survey and involve all friends and neighbors as well. The survey has been disseminated to schools, the department, other city government. The city is trying to get the information out as widely as possible. All members are encouraged to share.

**c) Discussion on Video Recording Committee Meetings for public posting.**

Alder Goforth brought forth the idea of recording committee meetings at last City Council meeting. Alder Goforth suggested the recordings could be posted on the city website or YouTube channel.

Alder Thomas indicated this may be more difficult once committees begin to meet in person again because we don't have the staff to be recording. Some committees currently do record their meetings which is posted on the YouTube channel.

Alder Moore expressed there is some concern about having the staff and capacity to do this once we begin meeting live again. The only room currently outfitted to record these meetings is the Community Room in the Library. Do individual committees have the same authority to go into closed session for confidential matters.

Alder Thomas added that there are some committees, such as License Review, where

applicants police records can be discussed and that may not be something the applicants want recorded and posted in perpetuity and these matters do not qualify for going into closed session.

Member Fontaine asked about any discussion of a hybrid type model. No discussions have taken place yet.

Alder Moore wondered if we are posting these meetings while meeting on Zoom and then don't have the resources to record after going back in person, will the community feel like something is being taken away.

Alder Thomas said there are some meeting that are of high public interest, for instance PSC when updating Police Department policies. The City will have to make a decision about what will most benefit the

Member Henderson agreed that transparency is important but he doubts there are many residents with a desire to watch the committee meetings.

Member Rehberg agreed that the minutes are available to anyone who wishes to see them. He also had a question about possible ADA implications related to posting the recordings.

Member Bisbee also indicated that he has been on PSC over 10 years and he recalls very few citizens who have appeared in person and very few who even send letters. Obviously some items are of more interest, such as nuisance ordinances, there was very little public interest.

Member Reed concurred. The vast majority of meetings there has been little to no citizen attendance and anyone is welcome to do that but it's often just the committee.

Member Davis has no problem being recorded and believes there may be situation that come up in the future that the community would like to know more about and these community members may have issues reading the minutes. Does not want to leave anyone behind. Would like to find out if there are other options and the cost involved before making a decision. Wondered if this was something we might be able to budget for in the future.

Alder Thomas spoke about the budget and advised, due to lost revenues, she did not believe there would be money to support this in the budget.

Alder Moore supported finding out what the additional costs might be associated with having a staff person and equipment available to record the meetings just to see what the additional costs might be.

Member Miley wondered if this was ultimately a City Council decision on budget and all of the committee's. Alder Thomas advised it would also require adding more staff to

facilitate the recording. Alder Thomas also advised there may have to be a decision made about what meetings are recorded, is it all of them some of the time, some of them all the time. There would be a lot of factors that would need to be considered.

Member Rehberg suggested consulting with city attorney regarding ADA requirements.

Member Moore did advise that [a.gov/effective-comm.htm](https://a.gov/effective-comm.htm). YouTube can support closed captions, but requires supplemental file: <https://socialmedia.ucla.edu/ada-compliance-video/>

**d) Letter received from Mary Delaney**

Letter was sent during the meeting to PSC members for review. There will be no in depth discussion until we hire our new Chief.

**7. Review Monthly Financial Reports: Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, Emergency Communications and Ambulance.**

Financial to be discussed with department reports. No discussion.

**8. Discussion of future agenda items.**

No future items discussed.

**9. Reports:**

**Fire:**

- Transition to new billing successful, we have been operating under the new system since January 1, 2021.
- Financial statements do not match actual deposits, regardless, revenue is down.
- As of today we have five calls submitted to the state for reimbursement for calls on the beltline.
- Working with PD to figure out the best way to get the police reports to LifeQuest for billing.
- Have had 86 calls so far this month.
- New ice rescue equipment used last night at training. Purchased with funds from the Town of Madison donation, no city money used for purchase. Current training was in the bay, using social distancing but going forward we will be training out on the ice and have invited other departments to participate.
- MOFD submitting a grant by Feb. 12 to replace breathing apparatus. Total cost of that project is just over \$250,000 and
- Had a cardiac arrest save a few weeks ago and would like to thank the Officers for their assistance. Co-workers began CPR, Officers took over upon arrival. Would like to thank the PD for their assistance. Once we get written approval from patient/spouse we can put something together to recognize the Officers and EMS staff who were part of the save.

**Police:**

- Thank you to the PSC for their work over the past 7 months on the work on the Use of Force policies. Our UOF policies have been reviewed and approved so MOPD continues to be eligible for current and future grants. Next review is in 3 years so any policy modifications will be brought forward prior to the next review.
- Have had 792 calls for service so far in January. Numbers are a little lower over prior years but there have been a few recent higher priority calls with thefts from motor vehicles and an unoccupied parked motor vehicle that was targeted by gunfire.
- Still trying to tie up loose ends with 2020 budget items and get invoices submitted for payment
- No significant expenses yet this year, however squad cars will need to be ordered soon.

**Building Inspection:**

- Alder Thomas has requested that Building Inspection prepare a monthly report for the committee to review. No current report available but hope to have this for future meetings.

**Police and Fire Commission:** Member Fontaine reiterated the listening session date is February 9 and the deadline for the survey February 19. The position was posted earlier this month with a 6-week application deadline. The PFC will be meeting after the submission deadline to define next steps in process with GovHR. The PFC has not yet seen any information on the number of applicants who have applied thus far.

**10. Next meeting date:** February 24, 2021

**11. Adjournment:** Motion was made by Bisbee, second by Miley, to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously at 7:15 pm.