

**CITY OF MONONA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Conference Room
5211 Schluter Road
Wednesday- February 26, 2020**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

2. Roll Call:

Committee Members Present: Thomas, Grupe (speaker phone), Fontaine, Reed, DeVault and Miley

Committee Members Absent: Hanson, Bisbee and Rehberg

Staff Present: Police Chief Ostrenga and Assistant Fire Chief Eklof

Others Present: none

3. Minutes: A motion was made by Fontaine, seconded by DeVault, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Appearances: Ann Wellman, 4529 Winnequah Road appeared with concerns for bicycle and pedestrian safety. She explained that she recently observed where several groups of people either walking, jogging, or biking all at the same time the wrong way on Winnequah. She requested that some biking and walking guidelines be provided for residents.

Chief Ostrenga reported that the Spring/Summer Newsletter has some tips for biking and walking safety in the Public Safety section.

5. Unfinished Business:

a) Discussion/Action on Community Restorative Court – Grupe

Alder Grupe provided an e-mail handout with statistics on the Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC). Between July 2015 and August 2019 they have processed 505 cases with a 92.2% success rate. (A copy of the handout will be included with the minutes.)

Member Reed announced that he and wife are going to attend training a future training session to become CRC Peacemakers.

Chief Ostrenga reported that the department has added a section to the Monthly report

with the number of cases referred to the CRC.

**d) Discussion/Action on Proposed Update to the Block Party Ordinance –
Gadow**

Chief Ostrenga updated the PSC on the changes made to the Block Party Ordinance by Administrator Gadow. A letter to the PSC from Administrator Gadow dated January 29, 2020, was included in the packet. On the issue of the percentage of households needed to approve a block party, the consensus of the PSC was that the City Council should make that decision.

After discussion, there was a motion by DeVault, seconded by Reed, to approve the proposed update to the Block Party Ordinance. Motion approved unanimously.

6. New Business:

**a) Discussion/Action on Wellness/Fitness Programs and PTSD for both Police
and Fire**

Chief Ostrenga reviewed the process for hiring new police officers, which included fitness testing using the Cooper Standards testing. To encourage existing officers to maintain a higher level of fitness, a fitness incentive plan has been in place for several years.

Assistant Chief Eklof described the process used for hiring new firefighters, which included a fitness test recognized as the national standard. The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is the recognized standard for measuring an individual's ability to handle the physical demands of being a firefighter. At this time there is no fitness incentive plan in the fire department.

The discussion ranged from carrying/climbing ladders; why is this just for police and fire and no other city employees; and some other agencies having health days and health fairs.

b) Discussion/Action on VHF Radio System Updates for Fire and DPW.

Updates to the VHF Radio system for Fire and DPW were included in the 2019 and 2020 Emergency Communications Capital budgets.

Assistant Chief Eklof described radio system update project.

After discussion, there was a motion by Fontaine, seconded by Reed, to approve the VHF Radio system project. Motion approved unanimously.

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

The 2020 financial reports were included in the packet. Chief Ostrenga reported since we were not even two months into the 2020 budget, there was very little to discuss.

8. Discussion of future agenda items.

- With the outbreak of the Corona Virus, there were concerns voiced on how prepared the city would be if faced with a pandemic.

9. Reports:

Fire: Assistant Chief Eklof advised that he was filling in for Chief Sullivan, who was attending the Fire Chiefs conference. The major topic at the conference was PFAS Foam. The Fire Department was able to dispose of all their PFAS Foam by partnering with other area departments through a company from Texas for around \$3,000. They are researching a alternative product that is much safer for the environment. With the retirement of Chief Sullivan in March, Assistant Chief Eklof has been named the interim Fire Chief until the PFC can hire a full time replacement. Chief Sullivan's last day will be on March 26th. Members of the PSC were invited to attend the farewell luncheon.

Police: Chief Ostrenga reported that there was a nice article in the Herald Independent that highlighted the two new fuel efficient squad cars the department purchased in 2019. After several years of no severe accidents, we've had three squads involved in incidents requiring them to go to the body shop. Two were rammed during the arrest of persons in a stolen auto in January, and one was damaged while exiting the new ice skating park. The application process has closed for a police officer vacancy expected in May. We will be giving the written and physical agility tests in March, with PFC interviews in April. Bridge Road will be closed again for construction starting on March 4th. Information will be on the city website and social media outlets.

Building Inspection: No report.

Police and Fire Commission: Member Fontaine reported there will be a meeting on April 6th to interview potential Fire Chief candidates.

10. Next meeting date: March 25, 2020

11. Adjournment: Motion was made by Reed, seconded by DeVault, to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously at 7:07 pm.