

City of Lodi Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes of November 1st, 2022

1. Call to Order

Chair Hansen called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Committee members present: Eric Hansen, Nick Strasser, Tim Ripp (remote).

Others Present: Mayor Ann Groves-Lloyd, Brenda Ayers, Melissa Randall-O'Neil, Wayne Smith, Rich Stevenson, Jonathan Stefonek.

2. Meeting Etiquette

Hansen- Foregone, no attendees online.

3. Public Input- None

4. Approval of Minutes from September 6th, 2022

MOTION (Strasser/Ripp) to approve the minutes of September 6th, 2022. Roll call vote taken- Aye (Hansen, Ripp, Strasser); Nay (0). **Motion carried.**

5. Building Permit Monthly Report

Reviewed.

6. EMS Monthly Report

No reports provided, no discussion.

7. ECCJMC Monthly Report

Reviewed, discussion on numbers from 2022 comparable to 2019.

8. Fire Department Monthly Report

Strasser advised they met to pay bills. No other discussion took place.

9. Police Department Monthly Report

Financials and call report reviewed. Smith noted no change to asset forfeiture and K9 Balance. Line items over noted at previous meetings. Staff replacement in progress. 580 calls month of October, averaging 19.33 call per day.

10. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Police Coverage 2023

Smith presented call activity by day hour & noted consistency throughout the year with exception of early a.m., in part due to staffing at those hours. Calls at the school were addressed and diversion programs already in place that do not require LE contact were discussed. The PD budget had been presented with no questions or concerns addressed and at the 11th hour, nearly \$80,000 had been defunded from it. The PD budget did not ask for anything new this year and the budget increase was solely for wages/insurance & a few contracted subscription & support services. The amount defunded would include a loss of personnel and Smith addressed his concerns to include difficulty filling shifts, non-emergent calls pending that the County Sheriff's Department will not handle, increase in the overtime budget to fill shifts, upcoming events that require LE security without staff to fill those hours at those events and less engagement taking place between LE officers & the community. Smith noted salaried employees work events on their off time with no reimbursement because they believe in the community, what we do and what the agency stands for. Significant changes Public Safety needs to be aware of and be prepared to address with the community and stakeholders:

- a. **Event Security and Permitting Process-** The Lodi Ag Fair requires six officers from the Police Department in the evening and one officer overnight. The department can handle this with current staff. If full or part time positions are cut, we will lose help for this event & outside staff will need to be hired. Smith addressed concerns with outside staff availability & requested Public Safety give notification to stakeholders on what they will need to do for security.
- b. **Road Closure Permits-** The Police Department writes the required permits to shut down state highways for events. With current staff, there is already difficulty shutting down the whole road & intersections. Smith addressed safety concerns with less staff and recommended the committee look at other areas for the events where road closures have taken place in the past.
- c. **Snow Emergency Parking Enforcement-** Smith noted it normally takes one or two snowfalls each year for the PD to cite/warn/notify residents not to park on the street when there is a forecasted 3+” snowfall. For night shift snowfalls, officers normally go out early a.m. before city crews come on duty to plow. With less staff, Smith advised those hours may not be covered and city crews should be aware additional passes might be needed to clear roadways throughout the day as vehicles potentially would not be cited or notified to move.

Smith noted the above items are easily three things that will be impacted by staff shortages. Concerns were addressed over the rebuilding of the agency and what ripple effects staffing shortages would cause for both employees & the community. With recent non-coverage due to staffing shortages, there have already been citizen complaints for calls placed with no officer response. Smith noted \$30,000 taken from the Police Department budget that was spread into other line items and with a \$220,000 operating budget, the only place to take money from was personnel. If this occurs, citizens should be aware that a police officer is not always going to be here when they call. Strasser- the city does not have increasing revenue and with levy limits, the budget is unsustainable. Concerns were addressed using on-time funds with a budget increase in one year and having to then cut a position. 100% coverage may not be feasible. Collaborative work needs to be done to come up with budget numbers that can be sustainable. Groves-Lloyd- funding available in the general fund and recommended giving the PD funding to continue operating as it has in 2023. If alders planned to make cuts, it should be done in a thoughtful data driven manner and citizen input should be obtained. Crime is not an issue in Lodi because we have invested in Public Safety. Alders should commit to a 2023 retreat style meeting and determine what they want from the police Department and what data is needed to make informed decisions. Hansen- the police budget wasn't an issue before because manpower was minimal to low, and that the city strove to get the Police Department to where it is now. He cautioned that surpluses can't always be depended upon as they can/do run dry. In a case where we have priority, he is for revisiting this item. Ripp- exponential spending not sustainable at the city level and we need to have some sort of finite plan for funding and recommended revisiting this item. Ayers- since she came on board, she has heard nothing but the community wanting 24/7 Police coverage. A goal and resolution for this were set in 2017. The city has done great with putting leadership in key positions. Goals should be set for the budget and in May of 2023, it should be discussed, so it is known what the expectations are.

11. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Disbursement of K-9 Funds

Smith-this is an approval to move the K-9 Fund to the General Fund to cover the cost of two crossings with flashing yellow lights for pedestrians (Lodi St. at Water St.) & (Fair St. at N. Main St.) as well as six temporary pedestrian crossings to be placed throughout city. The funds were donated for the betterment of the community, and this was an option to use the funding for this purpose. **MOTION** (Ripp/Strasser) to HR & Finance to move K9 Fund to General Fund for the purchase/use of crosswalk lights & pedestrian signs. Roll call vote taken- Aye (Hansen, Ripp, Strasser); Nay (0). **Motion carried.**

12. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Liquor License Outdoor Restrictions

Committee members recommended the below changes to ordinance 204-6 (E) to Ayers:

- (1) rather than fenced area, verbiage to include delineated area with a map/description of that area on license application.
- (2) possibility of an amplified music permit to allow outdoor entertainment as it is currently prohibited.
- (4) address wording for what beverages may be sold/consumed in outdoor area based on license type approved.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled Public Safety Committee meeting is Tuesday, December 6th, 2022, at 4:00pm.

14. Adjourn

MOTION (Ripp/Strasser) to adjourn at 5:15pm. Roll call vote taken- Aye (Hansen, Ripp, Strasser); Nay (0). **Motion carried.**

Minutes by Melissa Randall-O'Neil, Administrative Assistant, Lodi PD

APPROVED