

City of Lodi
Finance & Human Resources Committee
Minutes of October 25, 2022

1. Call to Order.

Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Committee Members Present: Rich Stevenson, Nick Strasser, Peter Tonn, Tim Ripp (virtual), Mike Goethel (virtual), Eric Hansen

Staff: Brenda Ayers, Sandy Bloechl, Chief Wayne Smith, Lieutenant Bill Nichols

Others: Ann Groves Lloyd

2. Meeting Etiquette- no one online except alders

3. 2023 Budget Discussion

Chief explained the number of officers and coverage. Less staff would decrease coverage and then the sheriff would answer emergency calls only. OT has been reduced but some is out of their control. Stevenson asked Chief to describe what happens for emergency detention. The current system that the officers have to follow is not good, but there are no other options. Ripp asked if any of the people that need to be detained be detained inhouse. We are not set up for that and would still have to staff. Strasser asked what percentage of calls are emergency calls. Chief estimated that about 40% of calls are true emergencies. Chief thinks his officers are doing a great job and the citizens seem happy with the coverage. Ripp wanted to know if getting an SRO in the schools if that would help the budget. The Chief has been pushing for an SRO since he's been here and has gone to several meetings and given presentations to try and get the school on board. School agreed but wouldn't fund it. Groves Lloyd commented that we have been in discussion with our attorney to see if the city could start charging the school for some of the calls and/or limit what we respond to. Chief Smith said that if the part-time position cut 500 hours that could save about \$12,000.

Ayers reviewed the proposal that was discussed last week and using fund balance. Tonn recommends not hiring the one FT position in the Police Dept. Strasser suggested that the council decides how much police coverage the city can afford. Chief would prefer to cut the PT position instead of a FT. Tonn stated it is the council's job to approve the amount of funds and then it is the Chief's job to figure out how to staff with that amount. Ripp wanted to know why so much was delegated to Pool Operations – it costs a minimum of \$66,000 just to open the pool. Stevenson recommends cutting the PD budget by \$34,000.

Motion (Tonn, Strasser) To Keep Police Department Budget Flat and Let the Police Chief Decide How to Manage Department with \$887,254.

Aye – (Hansen, Ripp, Strasser, Tonn); Nay – (Stevenson, Goethel). **Motion carried.**

Chief said can't compare budget to before he came because the dept was awful. He was surprised it wasn't shut down and no one wanted to work here. Leadership, training, good pay and good equipment was what made the difference. Goethel said we asked the chief to do something and he has done it and now we are taking it away. Police Dept was not fully staffed until 2/2021.

Tonn wanted to go on record to say he would love to see a 1.2-million-dollar budget in the future and see this department grow, but other taxing entities need to pitch in.

Motion (Strasser, Hansen) Not to Use \$33,262 of ARPA Funds to Purchase Equipment and Use Fund Balance Instead. Aye – (Hansen, Stevenson, Strasser, Tonn, Ripp, Goethel); Nay – (0). **Motion carried.**

4. Next Meeting Date. The next meeting is WEDNESDAY, November 9th at 5 p.m. and Agenda Items

5. Adjourn. MOTION (Strasser, Hansen) to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Voice vote – all Ayes. **Motion carried.**

Minutes by Sandy Bloechl, Accounting Manager/Treasurer