

SAFETY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Barry VanHoozen, and Mark Weber. Also present were Kate Sandretto, Law Director, and Tom Granata, Deputy Fire Chief.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With no objections, the minutes from the January 26, 2021 committee meeting were approved.

PERMISSION TO PURCHASE TURNOUT GEAR

Ms. Sandretto stated that the Fire Division would like to purchase ten turnout gear coats and pants and four pairs of boots from Atlantic Emergency Solutions in the amount of \$30,170. She stated that the funds for this purchase are in the 2021 budget. Mr. Weber asked if this is replacement gear. Deputy Chief Granata explained that turnout gear has a ten year life span, and this gear will replace gear that is currently being used that will be rotated out. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase.

2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Ms. Sandretto reviewed the proposed changes in the police and fire division budgets. She said that there are no major capital equipment purchases that are not carryovers. She noted that insurance went up in every department. She stated that the only new item in the police budget is a thermal ID printer because we need to have the ability to print on both sides for our ID's. Ms. Born said she would like something in the budget to cover Covid leave for the firefighters so they do not have to use their sick time. Mr. Weber asked if the improvements to Fire Station 38 are going to be done this year. Deputy Chief Granata said that it is currently in design. Ms. Sandretto said if there are any additional questions about the budget amendment, the committee could contact the Administrator or Finance Director.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. VanHoozen stated that Ms. Born has raised the issue about extra hours to be granted to the firefighters. Mr. Weber said that he is hearing that it is an administrative decision and there is not a whole lot that City Council can do. Ms. Born said that she thinks City Council can give them the extra hours. She said they protect us, so we should protect them. Mr. Weber agreed and said that if there was something Council could do, he would do it. Mr. VanHoozen said that at the Committee level they could make a recommendation to the Administration, but added that they make policy, not City Council.

Josh Amstutz, 24608 Fort Meigs Road, was present and said that he understands the committee does not have the ability to change it, but he has gone through administrative channels. He said that all employees have been given 80 hours which gives employees

ten days off, but for them to achieve ten days off they need 96 hours. He said they would like a response as to why they can't have an additional 16 hours per employee. Mr. Weber said that they have gotten the conversation going, and City Council and the Administration are talking about it and they are trying to get answers.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairman
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.