

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **March 26, 2015 @ 4:00**
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden St.

REGULAR MEETING

Chief Sanchez requested a change in the Agenda Order. All Police Department related items 6, 8 and 11 will be presented before Fire Department related items 7, 9, and 10.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Laponis, and Torell

Staff Present: Police Chief Cam Sanchez, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Councilmember Gregg Hart, and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Torell to approve minutes of **November 20, 2014**, and minutes of Special Meeting on **January 26, 2015**. Laponis seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any member of the public may address the Fire & Police Commission for up to one minute on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not scheduled for a public hearing before the Commission. The total time for this item is 10 minutes. If you wish to address the Commission under this item, please complete and deliver to the Commission Secretary before the meeting is convened, a "Request to Speak" form, including a description of the subject you wish to address.

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

The commissioners discussed the status and possibility of procedure changes to fill current board vacancies in a more efficient manner. The Clerk's Office advised recruitments are to begin on April 9, accepting applications thru May 5. Laponis suggested a change in the procedures so vacancies could be filled off an established list. Christensen asked staff to add an agenda item to next month's meeting to discuss further. Councilmember Hart will also report back on the potential to change the recruitment process next month.

6. Annual Police Department Budget Planning

The Police Department has a status quo budget of \$38 million. City Council is giving the department 1 officer. In addition, the department is requesting Council approval for a civilian Dispatch Manager. For the past few years the division has been managed by Police

Lieutenants. Consultants have found that a civilian manager would be a better fit. If Council approves, current Lieutenant would be moved into the Detective Bureau. Council would increase the department's budget as necessary to include the costs associated with these two new positions.

Commissioner Torell inquired whether any revenue increases were expected. Councilmember Hart stated the Transient Occupancy Tax is up about 15%. Next year they are not expecting as high of an increase. Sales and Property Tax are also up a little. Discussion ensued about revenue from vacation rentals.

Christensen and Laponis inquired about increases in PERS and health care costs. Sanchez stated the increases are absorbed by the department.

Sanchez continued and stated a new building is still a priority with City Council as a Capital Improvement Project, but the cost is about \$80 million, so no plans for now. A new HVAC system and workout room improvements are currently being completed. In addition they are currently awaiting results of asbestos testing for the building.

7. Annual Police Department Staffing, Hiring and Training Plan

Four cadets graduate from the academy on April 10, 2015. Six more have been hired to begin the academy on April 13. Testing occurs in May 2015 to send 8-9 for the October academy.

8. Police Chief's Report

Three new Lieutenants: Duarte, Arroyo (first female), and Olson. Bill Marazita promoted to Captain, and 3 new Sergeants.

Three Community Service Officers have been hired, with a goal to hire a total of 7-8 positions. Candidates will be going thru backgrounds before summer. These officers will have the authority to write citations, but are not sworn.

Five officers have been killed in the line of duty since 1921. A memorial statue will be placed in front of the station to commemorate their service. Costs will be covered by donations and fundraisers.

There are currently a dozen officers injured, which is impacting staffing. Some of these are long term injuries in which the person may not return to work.

Christensen inquired about the current rash of burglaries. Sanchez stated there have been 6 burglary arrests. Crews are coming into town from other areas. 65% are crimes of opportunity, taking advantage of unlocked doors and windows. Some vacation rentals have been hit. One occurrence was a hot prowler, and they are seeing an increase in forced entries. Press releases will be forthcoming. Both marked and undercover vehicles are patrolling.

9. Annual Fire Department Budget Planning

The department's budget is status quo. Enhancement requests include reinstating the Public Education Coordinator position, and funding for new Emergency Medical Dispatch computer software. Funding for the new firefighter recruit academy, \$350,000, is being covered by funds not utilized for equipment.

Capital Improvement Plan – Requests include designs to rebuild Station 7 in cooperation with the US Forest Service. A grant was received for computer tablets in the engines, but in addition

\$200,000 in implementation costs for software have been set aside. A \$650,000 grant is funding the purchase of new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The bigger bottles will allow for longer working periods in a structure fire.

On April 14 the department goes before the Planning Commission for a new live fire training prop. The prop has been funded with city funds and a grant. The old tower prop is no longer safe to burn in, but is still usable for other types of training.

10. Annual Fire Department Staffing, Hiring and Training Plan

To cover positions on each shift, 84 people are needed. The department currently only has 67 available due to vacancies and injuries.

The process for a new open hire recruit academy has begun. The last 2 academies were lateral transfer hires. This is the first time the department is utilizing a standardized testing service for firefighter applicants. 93 applicants will be interviewed and the applicant field narrowed to 30. After a second interview, the final 15 applicants will go thru background checks. We will retain the list for possible reuse for the next hiring need. Academy will begin in July for 12 weeks.

11. Fire Chief's Report

The department has been devastated by the passing of Firefighter Daniel Corrigan. Costs for the memorial service were absorbed by the Firefighters Association. Santa Barbara County Fire and Montecito Fire provided station coverage so on duty crews could attend.

McElroy provided a handout on the seasonal fire weather outlook. It continues to be poor.

The Fire Alliance has a fundraising event scheduled for May 16 at Santa Barbara Auto Group. They raise funds used to purchase fire equipment countywide.

12. ADJORN: 5:15 PM