



**WENATCHEE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION**

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Wenatchee City Hall Council Chambers
301 Yakima Street, 2nd Floor
Wenatchee, WA 98801

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Frank Kuntz, Councilmember Position 1 Jose Cuevas, Councilmember Position 2 Jim Bailey, Councilmember Position 3 Ruth Esparza, Councilmember Position 4 Travis Hornby, Councilmember Position 5 Mark Kulaas, Councilmember At-Large "A" Linda Herald (via phone), Councilmember At-Large "B" Keith Huffaker (via phone)

Staff Present: Executive Services Director Laura Merrill, City Clerk Tammy Stanger, IS Support Tim McCord, Police Chief Steve Crown, Captain Edgar Reinfeid, Sgt. Brian Miller, Officer Albert Gonzalez, Officer Andy Sund, Detective Steve Evitt, Finance Director Brad Posenjak, Community Development Director Glen DeVries, City Attorney Steve Smith, Assistant City Attorney Danielle Marchant

5:15 p.m. Work Session. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. All Councilmembers were present with Councilmembers Herald and Huffaker participating via phone.

Police Department

- Special Services/Homeless Parking

Sgt. Brian Miller, Officer Albert Gonzalez, and Officer Andy Sund provided a power point presentation with an overview of the Special Services Division/PROACT Unit mission and goals and about their work efforts with the current homeless parking issues, gang graffiti, assistance for critical incidents, assistance to other agencies for major crimes, and felony drug investigations.

- Legislative Updates

Police Chief Steve Crown provided a power point presentation with an overview of recent legislative updates and the impacts of those updates to the department and city (i.e. budget impacts, additional training, public outreach efforts).

- National Night Out

Captain Edgar Reinfeld announced that Tuesday, August 3, 2021, is National Night Out. They are planning National Night Out in a different format for this year, taking it into the neighborhoods to encourage people to come out and meet their neighbors and have their questions answered by law enforcement. He hopes that the City Councilmembers will participate and has scheduled the events at three local parks to represent the neighborhood districts: Lincoln Park Picnic Shelter (District 1 and 2); Washington Park Picnic Shelter (District 4 and 5); Rotary Park South Picnic Shelter (District 3). Police will begin outreach efforts for the event beginning July 5.

- Additional Question

The Mayor asked City Attorney Steve Smith and Assistant City Attorney Danielle Marchant if there is anything we can update in our city code that will assist with the homeless/parking issues? Assistant City Attorney Marchant replied that we are doing the best we can, that it has been an uphill battle with the judicial system having a strained interpretation of city code and being sympathetic to the homeless population.

The Mayor asked about the felonies not being prosecuted by the County Prosecutor. She reported that normally an average of 20 felony cases will be returned to the City Attorney's office from the County Prosecutor, and to date this year it is at 80 cases. This will have an effect on the city's costs for jail, filing fees, etc.

The Mayor asked them to keep the city posted if there is anything we can update in our city code for additional tools to help with the homeless/parking issues. City Attorney Steve Smith did say that when the low-barrier shelter is in place it should make it easier to handle these cases and for the courts to do their part. At this time the attorneys are doing all they can do, and while it is unacceptable to the community the courts feel otherwise.

Councilmember Linda Herald provided a brief update on the low barrier shelter planning, saying the draft Interlocal Agreement is being finalized and will then go to the City Attorney for review. They are in the process of a site evaluation near the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is interested in being a partner with the city for the low-barrier shelter.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Attest:



Tammy L. Stanger, City Clerk



Frank J. Kuntz, Mayor