

City of Hastings
Public Safety Advisory Commission

Meetings Minutes
September 29, 2011
Hastings City Hall – Volunteer Room

Members present: Chair Terry Sieben, Commissioners Bayers, Cherney, Drexler, Fasbender, Gilbert, and Pemble.

Members absent/excused: Commissioner Biermaier

Elected officials present: Mayor Paul Hicks

Staff present: City Administrator Dave Osberg, Chief Schutt, and Chief Schnell

Meeting was called to order by Chair Sieben at 6:32 PM.

Welcome and review of agenda – Chair Sieben

Review and approval of minutes of the August 15, 2011 meeting. A motion to approve as submitted was made by Commissioner Drexler. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pemble. Unanimous approval.

Chair Sieben reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The order of business was altered, moving Old Business to the top of agenda in recognition of the presence of Mayor Hicks and City Administrator Osberg.

Old Business:

Discussion of Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) mission and focus: Chief Sieben recognized the presence of Mayor Hicks and City Administrator Dave Osberg. Mayor Hicks and Mr. Osberg were invited and present at the meeting to discuss the mission and focus of the Public Safety Advisory Commission.

Mayor Hicks provided historical background on the Police Civil Service Commission, which was the precursor to the PSAC. The Police Civil Service Commission was charged with oversight of personnel matters, specifically hiring and termination. In addition, the Police Civil Service Commission established the hiring standards. Prior to the PSAC, the chief of police reported directly to the Mayor.

City Administrator Osberg pointed out that the police chief was the only City department head that did not report to him. Mr. Osberg and Mayor Hicks explained that over time it became apparent that the Civil Service Commission processes became difficult to manage and at time made citizen Commissioners responsible for personnel management. With the hiring process for a new chief of police, the Mayor and sitting Commissioners concurred that a different, more consistent model was needed. In the summer of 2010,

the Hastings City Council passed a City ordinance creating the Public Safety Advisory Commission.

Mayor Hicks, Mr. Osberg and Commissioners engaged in a discussion focusing on the PSAC's role that includes:

- Maintaining a broad focus for the overall public safety of the City, including Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Police, and Emergency Management.
- Providing review and feedback into advancing recommendations brought forward by the City's public safety departments.
- Providing feedback on the strategic direction of the City's public safety departments.
- Providing input on policy recommendations under consideration by the City's public safety departments.
- Serving as communication conduits between the community members and the City's public safety departments.

It was determined that with the yearend term expirations of several Commissioners, it was decided to plan to better educate the community on the role of the Commission through local media outlets and other communication methods, including the City's Facebook page, website, and newsletters.

City/Department Budget Update: City Administrator Osberg reviewed the budget challenges faced by the City as a result of depressed property values. Mr. Osberg discussed the preliminary levy and a broad overview of what the major changes to the City budget included.

Chiefs Schutt and Schnell provided the Commission with a brief explanation of the 2012 budget implication for each department.

Hastings Fire/EMS Updates: Chief Schutt briefed Commissioners on the following:

- Two new FT firefighters were hired filling vacancies.
- One of the new FT firefighters is the department's first FT female firefighter.
- Fire prevention week open house will be held October 12, 2011 from 7 – 9 PM.
- Department is making application for a federal grant for funding a new ladder truck that is estimated to cost more than one million dollars.

Hastings Police Updates: Chief Schnell briefed the Commissioners on the following:

- HPD Second Annual Community Input Survey was released and available online with more than 100 people responding in the first 10 days.
- The department is taking a policy recommendation to the City Council that pertains to Police Officer Perpetrated Domestic Violence. The policy is an International Association of Chiefs of Police best practices recommendation.
- The education standards policy recommendations previously discussed by the Commission will be taken to the City Council for review and consideration on October 3, 2011.

- The department is seeking Council approval to initiate recruitment to establish an eligibility list for future possible police officer openings.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, December 1, 2011 – 6:30 PM**
Hastings City Hall – Volunteer Room

Adjourned: 8:05 PM