

City of Hastings

Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC)

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017

Hastings City Hall

Present: Commissioners McCauley, Ascheman, Starkson, Rohloff, Pemble and Augesen.

City Staff: Chief of Police Schafer and Chief of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Schutt

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Commissioner McCauley.
2. The minutes from the July 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.
3. Police department update provided by Chief Schafer:
 - Kyle Linscheid and Chris Nelson have been promoted to Sergeant. The swearing-in of Sergeants Linscheid and Nelson and Commander Schowalter will take place at the City Council meeting on September 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. A reception will be held after the swearing-in at City Hall. All Commission members are encouraged to attend.
 - With these promotions, there will be openings in investigations and on the drug task force.
 - The department plans to hire an additional full time police officer. The position will be posted next week.
4. Fire department update by Chief Schutt:
 - There are nine openings for paid on-call firefighters. Seven candidates are being considered. It is hoped that conditional job offers will be made by Labor Day.
 - The hiring for the captain's position is on hold. Chief Schutt reported that there are typically three captain positions – one for each shift. With Captain Murray's retirement, the department is down to two Captains. Commission members expressed concern that the process for filling this important position is in limbo particularly in light of the fact that internal applications had been accepted for the position and the position is budgeted.

Commissioner Pemble asked if it would be appropriate for the Commission to contact the City Administrator to obtain clarification on the status of the hiring. It was decided that Chair McCauley would send an email to Ms. Mesko-Lee on behalf of the Commission seeking clarification on why the hiring process was put on hold.

- Interviews for two full time firefighters will take place on September 6th and 7th. Chief Schutt asked if any Commission member would like to sit in on these interviews. Chair McCauley volunteered.
- The Booya is scheduled for September 10 and will begin at 11:00 a.m. Any Commission members wishing to help are more than welcome. They should send Chief Schutt an email and plan on arriving at the K.C. Hall at 10:30 a.m. Chief Schutt gave a short history of the Booya and explained that the proceeds are donated back into the community including two scholarships, Hastings Family Services and many others.

5. National Night Out De-Brief

- A discussion was had regarding the National Night Out event at Lions Park including a discussion of what worked well and thoughts about how it can be improved.
- It was estimated that the event was attended by about 200 citizens. Overall, the event was considered a success.
- Commissioner Augesen reported that during the event he had attempted to touch base with each business and/or organization that participated. The feedback he received was positive and many indicated that they would definitely be interested in participating in the future.
- Commissioner Augesen suggested that something that could be tried next year was to prepare a booklet that kids could get stamped at each booth and then turn in at the end of the night for a prize.
- Commission Rohloff had also mentioned that the Public Works Department could bring a truck as well.
- There was also a discussion of other businesses and/or organizations that the Commission could ask to participate next year including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, and HYAA.
- The Commission would also investigate sources for funding the event.
- The Commission signed thank-you notes to be sent to the various organizations involved in the event.

6. Old Business

- None

7. New Business

- A discussion was had regarding the role and duties of the Commission going forward. The Commission considered other activities in which is could engage the community. These included a community roundtable to discuss issues and an open street event in various neighborhoods.
- In up-coming meetings, the Commission would re-visit its mission statement and discuss is role.

8. Next meeting date:

- Next meeting date will be October 26, 2017 at City Hall.

9. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned.