

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
PO Box 338
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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 11TH, 2022
6:30 PM

PRESENT: Alderwoman Ulfers and Musk, Aldermen Garfield, Miller, Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Rushbrook, Mayor Allhands

GUESTS: Resident/Former Mayor Ted Horner, Assistant Fire Chief Nick Peters, Police Chief Jeremy Douglas

Alderwoman Ulfers opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. During public comment Ted Horner spoke about the city possibly of offering an incentive package to bring new residents and new businesses into the community by offering to them an abatement on corporate property taxes for a specified number of years. The committee thanked him for his input.

Auxiliary Mark Garfield stated the departments meeting was on officer safety this month. The department has been interviewing new candidates. He would like to put Erica Stanley, Corey Hamlin and Joe Jaskula on the department. **Alderman Garfield makes a motion to recommend to the Council to place Joe Jaskula, Corey Hamlin and Erica Stanley on the Auxiliary roster and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.** The new officers are on a 1-year probation.

Assistant Fire Chief Nick Peters stated the department had 1 fire structure, 3 motor vehicle crashes, 6 automatic alarms, 2 CO calls, 1 gas leak, 1 lift assist and 1 power line-forcible entry calls for the month of December. Training for December consisted of self-contained breathing apparatus, extrication power point and hands on, cut up cars at training cans, cribbing and lift exercise. Personnel the department wants to add Joshua Douglas and Charles Jones to the roster. Assistant Chief Peters stated the department ran 173 calls in 2021 compared to 144 in 2020. The department just finished up the paperwork with a billing company (Fire Recovery), to assist in getting paid for calls from insurance companies. The billing company will keep the first 22% of the income.

Police Chief Jeremy Douglas stated his department had 275 calls in the month of December. The push bars are and they are waiting on an install date now. Brian Williams has been out due to surgery. Chief reported the new Tahoe has been built and is in transport and should be here in the next week or two. Chief stated he has gotten prices on dress uniforms for the department. Events have come up where it would have been good for the department to have the dress uniforms to attend as a group and look professional. Chief has talked to Ray O Herron and for about \$446 each officer could have a coat, pants and hat. After a short discussion **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the Council to purchase for the police department each officer a dress uniform. Alderwoman Ulfers seconded roll call carried 9-0.**

Mayor Allhands asked Chief Douglas about giving a more detailed report each month on the types of stops the department makes. He would like to know about how many of the citations that are issued go through the court system and how many get dropped. There was a lengthy discussion about municipal court citations and how many citations the officers could be writing for municipal court. Chief Douglas stated he will be having a staff meeting this month to discuss these options and he will let the committee know so if they want to attend they can.

Alderman Rushbrook makes a motion to enter execution session at 7:01 pm for personnel and pending litigation and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

Alderman Barragree makes a motion to go back to regular session at 7:04 pm and Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

Alderwoman Ulfers stated no action was taken in executive session.

Alderman Ulfers makes a motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm and Alderman Garfield seconded. Roll call carried 9-0.

Monna Ulfers, Chairman