

**CITY OF LOMPOC
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**Meeting of Wednesday, January 15, 2020
City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza, Council Chambers**

Called to order by Chairperson Frank Campo at 6:40 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Frank Campo, Philip Gallandars, Maria Aguiniga, and Oscar Luna.

Commission Member Absent: Edwin Braxton

Staff Present: City Manager Jim Throop, Police Chief Joseph Mariani, Police Captain Kevin Martin, Fire Chief Jerry Kuras, Management Services Director Dean Albro, City Attorney Jeff Malawy, City Clerk Stacey Haddon.

Others Present: Robert Schmedike, John Shutter, Brandon Bridge, Nicholas Gonzales, Josh Looter, Jason Baird, Charlote (last name not stated)

Item 2. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Motion/Second: Aguiniga/Gallandars. By a 4-0-1 vote, (Commissioner Braxton was absent) the Commission approved the Regular Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2019

Item 3 Presentation on Sales Tax Initiative by City Manager Jim Throop and Management Services Director Dean Albro

City Manager Jim Throop and Management Services Director Dean Albro provided a brief presentation on Measure I2020, the 1% City of Lompoc sales tax measure on the upcoming March 3, 2020 Primary Presidential Election Ballot.

Commission thanked Staff for the information and discussed the matter at length. Commissioner Aguiniga stated she supports the Measure.

No Commission action was taken on this item.

Commission Requests:

- a) **Discussion of Recommendations at previous Public Safety Commission meeting, results from City Council meeting January 7, 2020, and Commission responsibility when making recommendations to Council.**

City Clerk Stacey Haddon explained Council approved the Commission's previous request to increase the meeting dates for the Public Safety Commission from quarterly to monthly; directed City Staff to return at a later date at a City Council Meeting with reports on a surveillance camera registration program for businesses and residents, and an assistance program for residents who would like to form neighborhood watch programs.

Commission Requests: (cont'd)

Commission discussed the ways to save money with monthly meetings. Commissioner Aguiniga requested this item be postponed to a future meeting and asked Staff provide cost breakdown of meeting costs

- Commissioner Aguiniga requested clarification on police officer shortages and positions that were frozen.
 - Chief Mariani stated the Police Department has a total of 47 sworn police officer positions are allocated in the current City of Lompoc Biennial Budget, with 3 positions frozen leaving a total of 44 positions currently funded; 14 Lompoc officers have departed the City of Lompoc in the past four years; the City has continuous recruitment for officers with testing approximately every 45 days for the past 12 months. Statistically only one applicant for every 12 to 13 candidates tested will remain to the end of the background process; the Lompoc PD is competing against other agencies for a limited number of applicants, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, the Santa Maria Police Department and California Highway Patrol are also actively recruiting for law enforcement officers.

Commissioner Aguiniga motioned this discussion be placed on a future Public Safety Commission Agenda, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gallandars.

Public Comment:

Robert Schmedike, John Shutter, Brandon Bridge, and Nicholas Gonzales spoke on the item.

Action: Motion/Second: Aguiniga/Gallandars. By a 4-0-1 vote (Commissioner Braxton was absent), the Commission requested Staff provide reports to the Public Safety Commission on the breakdown of costs for holding monthly Public Safety Commission meetings.

Oral Communications:

1. Robert Schmedike asked when the cameras will be put up in the City.
2. Davika Stalling, Director of the Boys and Girls Club –Offered free membership for kids in need at last meeting; and stated the Boys and Girls Club has worked with local elementary school principals to identify locations of need, and asked for volunteers to help drive community members to an upcoming community meeting
3. Josh Looter spoke about the gang problem in Arbor Square and fear of children living in this area due to the gangs.
4. Nicholas Gonzales voiced his concern regarding problematic areas in Lompoc and encouraged the public to participate in community walks and Neighborhood Watch.

Oral Communications: (cont'd)

5. Jason Baird representative of Lemo's Feed and Pet Supply discussed the experiences his business has had with homeless individuals burglarizing and intimidating his staff; stated his is hoping to install Would like a fence on the property line; mentioned cameras installed by the business up have not stopped crime and are only effective if the face of an individual is captured on camera, and said focus needs to be police officers on the street.
6. Charlotte (last name not stated) asked if the Guardian Angels were active in the community. Discussed the need for Neighborhood Watch.
 - o Commissioner Aguiniga stated she believed the Guardian Angels were still active in Lompoc and reiterated her want to see the City provide a program to the public to help start neighborhood watch programs.

Commission Requests and Comments:

Member Gallandars stated a neighborhood watch program is run entirely by the neighborhood, not by the Police Department or the City.

Member Aguiniga requested the Commission form an Ad-hoc Committee regarding neighborhood watch programs inside the City of Lompoc with Member Aguiniga and Member Gallandars heading. The request was seconded by Chairperson Campo and approved by a 4-0-1 vote of the Commission with Commissioner Braxton absent.

Member Aguiniga requested Staff provide a report to the Commission on City-owned cameras installed in the City, to include a timeline of the installation, who is installing the cameras and how will those cameras be monitored. The request was seconded by Commissioner Gallandars and approved by a 4-0-1 vote of the Commission with Commissioner Braxton absent

Member Aguiniga requested Staff provide a report to the Commission on the City's law enforcement recruitment and hiring process. The request was seconded by Commissioner Gallandars and approved by a 4-0-1 vote of the Commission with Commissioner Braxton absent

Member Aguiniga: Comment regarding billboards and signs in other communities.

Member Luna asked the City to let public help Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:17 P.M. Chairperson Campo adjourned the Lompoc City Public Safety Commission to a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:30 P.M., in City of Lompoc Council Chamber.

Respectfully, submitted for Commission review on June 17, 2020 by:

//Joseph A. Mariani//

Joseph A. Mariani, Chief of Police
Public Safety Commission Secretary