

**CITY OF LOMPOC
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Meeting of Wednesday, January 19, 2022
City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza,
Council Chambers**

Open Session called to order at 6:38 P.M. by Chairperson Skinner

Commission Members Present: Roberta Badertscher, Brittany Skinner, and Lillian Street

Commission Members Absent: Johnny Hudson

Staff Present: Police Chief Joseph Mariani, Captain Kevin Martin, Fire Chief Alicia Welch, and City Clerk Stacey Haddon

Others Present: None

Public Comment on Consent Calendar Items: No Public Comment.

Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of Public Safety Commission November 2021 Minutes

ACTION: Motion/Second: Badertscher/Street. By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approved the Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of November 2021.

Presentations: None

New Business:

Chief Mariani provided an update on the Lompoc Police Department (LPD). Four new trainees entered the law enforcement academy. Total deployment is 45. Trainees will be in academy for six months and in field training for about a year. Recent promotions: two Lieutenants, which will lead to two Sergeant promotions, and two Corporal promotions. A School Resource Officer was selected. Police Foundation achieved a grant to purchase a polymer/gun powder sniffing K9. This is important since 67 guns were recovered last year and also aligns us with surrounding agencies. Funding provides for K9, training, and vehicle. No cost to city general fund. 1805 Grant funded a new drone for the department. LPD has three certified operators. This will aid LPD in searches, etc. Awaiting transition from UCR to NIBRS and CIBRS. These systems may skew some crime statistics since select incidents are applied to multiple categories. Implementing RIPA to be in compliance with state. LPD will submit numbers monthly (self-imposed), which is ahead of requirements (quarterly). Chief Mariani has submitted a hierarchy of priorities for funding to City Council, who will make final decision. LPD authorized staffing is 48.

Currently at 45 and actively recruiting. Currently have offers to multiple candidates to get to 48. Will seek to add a Traffic Officer and Homeless Liaison. School Resource Officer will be uniformed and will respond to all Lompoc Unified School District schools, but will focus on Lompoc High School. Also participate in school disciplinary team, work with administrators, and attend events. School District has established the contract and has asked for Officer to be uniformed. Seeking a new CAD system to allow Officers to stay in field more. Technology is the hindrance. Awaiting Council to approve funding for cloud based system. Retention has been good with LPD.

Chief Alicia Welch provided an update on the Lompoc Fire Department (LFD). The new engine (Engine 51) has been in service for over a month. The call volume in 2021 increased 17% to a total of 4,924. This is a significant increase. Homeless encampments, drug overdoses, and overall EMS calls have significantly increased. LFD hired a new Senior Battalion Chief from Boulder, Colorado. Another candidate was offered a Battalion Chief Job but declined due to pay and benefits. Battalion Chief, Captain, and Firefighter roles are currently vacant. Pay and benefit packages are impacting LFD staffing. Technology, tools, and infrastructure are needed for day-to-day operations, but also for recruitment and retention of staff. The new engine has improved morale. Second engine coming soon. LFD is working on a FEMA grant to fund three roles with LFD with no cost to general fund for three years. Rapid COVID-19 tests have been obtained for staff. Staffing due to COVID-19 infection has effected LFD greatly. Extended shifts and overtime were high early in January. Community outreach is important to LFD and offered Extinguisher Refresher training to our CERT team. Partnership between LFD and Allan Hancock College. Teach residents basic emergency preparedness skills. COVID-19 forced postponements, but able to train outside with safe distancing. This is an effective program and will ramp up more when safe to do so. LFD participated in food and toy drive, as well as the Christmas parade.

Infrastructure faults have plagued LFD and LPD. Plumbing issues and flooding sewage have occurred multiple times at both stations. Radio communication system faults have occurred with both agencies as well. This has delayed response from both agencies. Both agencies request Public Safety Commission to advocate for funding for LFD and LPD to the City Council to fix these infrastructure issues for the safety and morale of their staff. All Commissioners are invited to tour/ride-along with the LFD and LPD facilities to see the current state and talk with staff.

ACTION: Motion/Second/Third: Street/Skinner/Badertscher. By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approved to add an invitation to CERT graduates to attend a future meeting to be recognized. Staff will confirm dates of graduation.

Old Business:

2. Continued Discussion on Possible Letter to the Board of Supervisors

Commissioner Badertscher is still drafting the letter but has been awaiting the new City Manager's transition. County Presiding Judge helped with translation of instructions on warrants. The county is now holding more people on warrants, which is leading to more bookings. Probation is still maintaining their hold protocols.

Letter will be drafted and sent to City Council at an optimal time.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Skinner/Street: By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approved to add this item to Old Business for March 19, 2022 meeting.

Staff Comments/Announcements/Updates:

City Clerk Stacey Haddon informed the Commissioners the next Public Safety Commission meeting is the same day as a City Council special meeting addressing redistricting. Commissioners could adjourn to another date, request staff to provide possible dates for meeting, or cancel.

ACTION: Motion/Second/: Skinner/Badertscher. By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approved to cancel the February Public Safety Commission meeting and require all Commissioners to attend the special City Council meeting on February 16, 2022.

Oral Communications: None.

Commission Comments and Requests:

Request Public Safety Commission have a special meeting with City Council about public safety. City Clerk Stacey Haddon informed the Commissioners in even numbered years, it is common practice for all commissions to meet jointly with City Council. Meetings will begin in June. City Clerk Stacey Haddon will provide the calendar of meetings to the Commission. Commissioner Street will wait for meeting in June, but notes she does not like it. City Clerk Stacey Haddon relayed it is within the Commission's purview to request a meeting. This can also be accomplished via phone, personal request, and through public comment at City Council meetings.

Commissioner Skinner addresses a proposed special meeting between the Public Safety Commission and City Council that was tentatively scheduled for December 11, 2021. Mayor Osborne visited the Commission and proposed, but the City Council did not address and approve this at their last meeting.

Commissioner Skinner requests the Public Safety Commission meet bi-monthly.

ACTION: Motion/Second/: Skinner/Badertscher. By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approved to add making Public Safety Commission meetings bi-monthly to the agenda of the March 16, 2022 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Skinner adjourned the Lompoc City Public Safety Commission at 7:48 P.M. to a Regular meeting of the Public Safety Commission scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2021, at 6:30 P.M., in the City of Lompoc Council Chamber.

Respectfully, submitted for Commission review on March 3, 2022, by:

// Joseph Mariani//
Joseph Mariani, Chief of Police
Public Safety Commission Secretary