



## WSNA Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2021

### Call Meeting to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM PST
- Pledge of Allegiance > Led by Jason Staats

### AGENDA

- One addition was made in reference to the passing of one of our board members Steve Van Pelt and minute of silence was taken.
- We removed the Marine Drive Update and Park Bench Grant from the meeting and updates will take place next month

### Minutes Approval

- Motion to approve minutes was made by Jason Staats and approved by Micki Varney
  - No discussion
  - Motion passed
- Chief Womack from the Salem Police Department attend our meeting and gave up a brief update on what he has been doing.
- He is from Stockton Calif.; he grew up there his father was a police officer as well. He served 29 years in Stockton the past 8 years as Deputy Chief. He is currently in the process of purchasing a home in town.
- The past months he has spent most of his time in observing the department and meeting the community.
- Chief Womack believes in smart policing using data, evidence based and being data driven. He has reviewed the audit that was completed on the Salem Police department and is currently having an internal audit done.
- The last part of this year he would like to move into a strategic planning-based principal and develop a three-year strategic plan based on the analysis that has been collected. The key goals are safety, legitimacy, and relationship and his plan is to have this rolled out by January.
- A question was asked on where we can follow the progress on your goals

- Chief Womack stated that he is in the process of developing a survey in September. This survey should allow the community feedback opportunities. He is hoping that he will get feedback on the goals are they correct and thoughts on the direction he is going in.
- The Chief was asked how the Salem PD interacts with the homeless/houseless
  - The Chief stated that the Salem PD needs to stay in their own lane and let the experts in housing, mental health, medical and support that group as required and needed. He did however say it is their responsibility to deal with the criminal element of the homeless/houseless.
  - The chief stated that during the ice storms and heat waves his officers are checking on this population to ensure that they are okay
- The Chief was asked about recruitment
  - They have a specific strategy to hiring a diverse group of people. However, the difficulty is that all law enforcement is doing the same thing and it is a very competitive process.
- The Chief was asked about the increase in road racing and traffic violations overall
  - In response to overall traffic issue the City is installing more automated enforcement cameras in the city. This takes all bias out of the process as it is captured on the camera.
  - In the area of racing the process of collecting data and use that data to have officers in the correct place to catch this act in person.
  
- Deputy Fire Chief Godfrey attended our meeting providing us with some information and updates
  - Call volume has been up by 17%
  - Fires have had the largest increase
  - EMS request are above 80%
  - Have receive a lot of calls around homeless/houseless calls ranges from medical issues to fires some of these fires are set on purpose, some of them are set by accident to keep warm or cooking
  - The recent heat wave has placed a lot on our firefighters both in volume calls and to their own health the PPE is very heavy and warm. However, the department has handled this very well and has taken it in stride.
- Deputy Chief Godfrey was asked about all the areas in West Salem that overgrowth that could be a fire hazard
  - The Deputy Chief stated that you should report the location to the Hazard Mitigation department and that they will review the area. If they believe that it needs to be addressed the Deputy Fire Marshall will work with the property owner or city based on location to have the area cleaned. The Chief also stated that the Public Works

Department takes this issue very seriously and does a good job of cleaning up these areas.

- Respond time is degrading based on the amount of call volume
- The department is on pace to hit 30,000 call by the end of the year
- The Deputy Chief was asked about snow and Ice and are they equipped to handle this
  - He stated that they work closely with weather predictions and know when the area will be hit with severe weather. In preparation they have vehicles that can handle snow and ice and they are station in West Salem and South Salem based on the hills to help support calls to those areas. They will drive in front of the Fire Truck to clear the road but if the Fire truck cannot continue, they can take the crew to the call.
- Councilor Stapleton was in attendance and provide some updates
  - Last council meeting was light agenda have the councilors were in attendance and the other half from home.
  - Updated us on the closing of gateway park to perform a good cleaning, two vehicles and perform repairs
  - The library will be open on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Upcoming meetings
    - Climate Action > 9/20
    - Our Salem > 10/18
- Steven Anderson provides an update on the WSNA appeal to the Doaks Ferry
- Next Meeting is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Motion was made by E.M Easterly to adjourn the meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jason Staats
- Np discussion
- Motion passed > Meeting adjourned