

## LADUE BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Ladue Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on Monday, September 9, 2019, at 4:00 p.m., at Ladue City Hall, 9345 Clayton Road.

Present:

Col. William Francis Jr., Chairman

Ms. Carol D. Gaskin

Mr. John Schaperkotter

Mr. John Stupp

Mr. L. Shepley Hermann

Mr. Stephen Jones

Mayor Nancy Spewak

Also present were Police Chief Ken Andreski, Jr., Police Captain Brian Dieckmann, Fire Chief Steven Lynn and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Johnson.

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

The agenda was approved upon motion by Commissioner Gaskin and second by Commissioner Jones.

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 12, 2019 were approved upon motion by Commissioner Schaperkotter and second by Commissioner Gaskin.

During an opportunity for public comment none was offered.

There were no questions for the Fire Chief regarding the monthly report. Chief Lynn provided an update on the department's involvement with the Task Force and preparations for response to activity in Richmond Heights following the officer involved shooting that recently happened near the Galleria. The Chief indicated that he would participate in a debriefing.

Commissioner Jones inquired about recent flash flooding and swift water rescue activities. With the most recent flooding the Chief assisted Central County with deployment of assets for significant flooding issues in Webster Groves and Eureka and temporarily closed part of McKnight. The Chief reported the department is working on obtaining training to certify fire fighters in water rescue using a rigging system as the rainfall and flooding events seem to be increasing.

Chief Lynn provided an update on the denial of the building permit for a new residence on Winding Ridge that was denied due to inadequate water flow required in the Fire Code, and explained the amount of water flow needed for the size of the proposed home. The Chief expressed his thoughts on possible solutions including looping the water system, and his attempts to assist the property owner with a resolution to the situation, but unfortunately, was unsuccessful. The property owner appealed the City's decision to deny the building permit to the City's Board of Fire Appeals on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Board upheld the City's permit denial and did not grant a variance.

Discussion ensued regarding building material flammability, fire code, estimated cost of the upgraded water line and the possibility of potential impact on insurance premiums. Chief Lynn noted that accessory uses such as pool houses do not fall under life safety so they are not included in the calculation for adequate fire flow. It was noted during discussion that the water infrastructure within Ladue is owned and maintained by Missouri American Water. The Chief expressed that in his opinion, from the Fire Department's perspective, Missouri American Water has been very receptive to upgrading water pipes in

Ladue with the most recent work on Upper Ladue that upgraded to an 8 inch main and on Fordyce a 10 inch main. However, in this situation Missouri American Water feels the water upgrade on Winding Ridge is the responsibility of the developer.

Police Chief Andreski reported on recent protests and response plan with new protocols for incident command, tools used, and the extent Ladue Police Officers were involved in the response. Discussion ensued regarding the challenges facing officers during these types of situations.

The Chief provided an update on the recent car thefts and staffing levels for patrolling and investigating, and the forms of communication used to alert residents. The Commissioners commented that the residents were very appreciative of the email blasts and message boards which provided reminders to lock vehicles and remove valuables. Commissioner Stupp left the meeting at 5:04 p.m. Discussion continued regarding the prosecution process after arrests are made, and the department's pursuit policy. The occurrence of carjacking was briefly discussed, and the Chief confirmed that there have been no instances of a carjacking in Ladue.

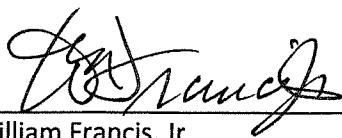
Chief Andreski initiated discussion of the purchase of a new in-car camera system and explained the current system is nearing the end of its useful life. The department looked at four options and recommended the Utility/Body Worn system. While the Body Worn system has the highest cost of the four options, after the department completed their evaluation, they recommended Body Worn because it allows for the transition to body cameras in the future, high quality of the components, ease of use, individual equipment for each officer, unlimited cloud storage, auto redaction in the event of a Sunshine Law records request and a custody tracking system. This system operates independently of a computer and is worn on the body in the uniform. The Chief added that St. Louis County Police Department has vetted the Body Worn system with vigorous field testing and plans to outfit their officers with the full system in the near future. The total cost of the system over five years is \$81,750.00 with an additional cost if the use of body cameras is implemented in the future.

Discussion ensued regarding how the equipment would fare in the event that an officer was shot while wearing it and the department's policy on wearing protective vests. Chief Andreski informed the Commissioners of the department's policy which does not mandate use of the protective vests at all times, but is voluntary, and that the department provides each officer with a protective vest.

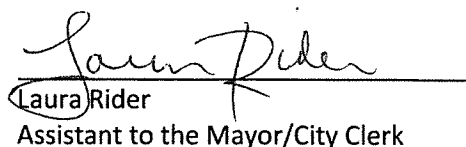
The Commissioners unanimously endorsed the purchase plan of the Utility/Body Worn system as written and submitted by the Police Chief upon motion by Commissioner Gaskin and second by Commissioner Jones.

Chief Andreski reviewed the Vacation Watch policy with the Commissioners upon inquiry by Commissioner Hermann.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM upon motion by Commissioner Gaskin and second by Commissioner Jones.



William Francis, Jr.  
Chairman



Laura Rider  
Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk