

BOWIE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE!



Minutes of the January 25, 2023 (Virtual Meeting)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:32 PM

Attendance:

Del Billings, Chair
Jill Hochman, Vice Chair
Bill Grayson, Member
Jackie Rhone, Member
Langston Clay, Member

Excused:

Jeffrey Cooper, Member
Ronnie Gill, Member

Ad Hoc Members:

Deputy Chief Preston, BPD
Deputy Chief Howard, BVFD
Captain Jefferson

Guests:

Tameka Washington
Monica Best-James, esq.
Leslie Kaunitz

Approval of December 14, 2022 Minutes: Motion Langston, Second Bill: Passed

Fire Department Update – BVFD Deputy Chief Jonathan Howard

- Tower 39-Waterway found and repair are underway, possibly in service by May
- New ambulance is on order, cost approximately \$300K
- Future vehicle costs: Truck-\$1.7M; Engine-\$930K; Donations cover approx. 30% and State funds rest
- 3 to 4 new Firefighters and 3 EMTs
- Incentive plan is being developed
- CPR for Bowie is on-going
 - Need instructors
 - Cost is approximately \$45

Police Department Update: Deputy Chief Preston

- Promotions: Lt. Robert Johnson- Investigative; Lt. Shawn Swartz-Operations; Sgt. Anika Howard-Investigative; Sgt. Robert Warrington-Patrol
- February 6-City Council Report t 8:00PM—Presentation of the Strategic Plan
- Commercial Break-ins still ongoing
 - ATMs stolen (Bank- approx. \$22K) /attempts
- Staffing still a challenge
- 2 Recruits graduated and released form FTO; 2 additional recruits will graduate soon and begin FTO
- Next Academy starts in February
- Currently 10 vacancies and currently actively recruiting: Possible losing 1 to Montgomery Co.
 - Evaluating current bonus program
 - Evaluating possible retention
- Considering use of Citizen Volunteers
 - Volunteers would handle issues that don't necessitate direct Police Officer contact; i.e. theft from auto, other similar reports
 - Possible 1-2 hours per day for 2 days a week
 - Announcement will be published soon
 - Will require detailed back-ground checks
- Strategic Plan
 - Addresses response times
 - Impacts on developments in South Lake, both commercial development (hotels, restaurants, etc. and residential) and Melford
 - Requests 15 additional Officers by 2028 (3/year)
 - Strengths: Good procedures, COLEA certification, generally representative of the community
 - Weaknesses: Supervisory development
- Speed Cameras: RFP should be issued around February 10

PSC Discussions

- Notification that Bill Healy has moved and will resign from the PSC
- Introduction of Les Kaunitz
- Motion to send a letter of thanks and caring to Bill for his service on the PSC, made by Jill, seconded by Jackie. Passed unanimously
- Discussion of having a safety article/notice in the Senior Center newsletter

Next Meeting: February 22, 2023

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Langston, seconded by Bill. Passed 9:03 PM unanimously