

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson	Chair
	Audrey Nelsen	Vice Chair
	Steve Ahmann	Member
	Andrew Plowman	Member

Others present: Public Works Director Sean Christensen; Police Chief Jim Felt; David Little, "West Central Tribune".

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christianson at 4:45 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Item No. 3 Police and Fire Updates (Resolution)

Police Chief Jim Felt noted the jail census for October 13, 2015 was 159; 89 inmates from the Department of Corrections, 65 inmates from Kandiyohi County, 1 inmate from Big Stone County and 4 inmates from Swift County. The calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 754. The majority of the calls were for traffic stops, followed by public assists and animal complaints. The Committee discussed the needs of the Department, including staffing levels with increased paperwork and upcoming retirements. Chief Felt displayed pictures of the new Ford Interceptor squad cars. The 3 new units are all wheel drive and have reflective graphics displayed on the traditional black and white style of past units.

Chief Felt brought forth, for approval, to enter the Department's canine unit into a voting contest provided by Aftermath, a crime scene cleaning company, for the chance to win \$5,000. The contest allows participants to vote for the Department's canine Axel at <http://www.aftermath.com/k9contest> until October 31st, with the winner announced on November 3rd.

A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Plowman to authorize the Police Department's canine unit to enter the Aftermath contest. The motion carried.

Fire Chief Frank Hanson noted the total Fire Department calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 15, and included 1 building fire, 2 cooking fires and 12 alarm activations. The total calls for service so far this year is 286, 34 calls above last year. The Fire Department hosted a family night on October 6th, with more than 700 people attending the event. The Department has doubled their education hours for the year, with firefighters providing information to numerous preschools and churches.

Item No. 4 Playground Priority 2 Hazard Analysis (Motion)

Staff brought forth, for approval, the analysis of the Priority 2 playground equipment with recommendations for the units for repair, removal or to remain as is. The City's Certified Playground Inspectors previously inspected the 230 individual pieces of equipment in the City's 28 parks. Each piece was given a priority rating of 1 through 5, with 1 indicating a potential life threatening issue and 5 signifying no issues and the Priority 1 equipment was removed. The Committee discussed the timeline of when the equipment will be replaced. The Community Education and Recreation Advisory Board are meeting with the Public Works staff to determine a priority of which parks will receive the new playground equipment.

A motion was made by Council Member Nelsen, seconded by Council Member Plowman to approve the recommendations prepared by staff for the Priority 2 units to be removed, repaired or remain as is. The motion carried.

Item No. 5 Public Works Update (Information)

Staff brought forth, for information, updates on the activities of the Public Works Department. Various tasks such as boulevard tree removals, grinding of the brush site pile, street patching, and winter preparation activities were discussed. Several areas needing potholes filled and lawn maintenance around a utility box were discussed. The 2016 Engineering plans were discussed, with staff noting past cancelled projects being evaluated for the project list. The overlay project of 9th and 10th Street previously cancelled by the request of the residents was discussed with staff noting they are not including it in next year's project list. The Committee discussed following the Pavement Management Program on City streets to keep up with the current schedule of maintenance and repair.

Item No. 6 Miscellaneous Information (Information)

The concept of a leaf pick up service by the Public Works staff was discussed, with more information requested from other cities that provide the service and their estimated costs.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean E. Christensen, P.E.
Public Works Director