

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
November 4, 2019
East Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers Bullock, Litten & O'Malley

Also Present: Councilmembers Anderson, Rader, & George; Director Butler, Local 382 President Seth Andregg, Captain Matt Preuer (Officers Representative), Captain Milan Tanasijevic (Secretary/Treasurer), Mike Tripodi (A Shift Representative), Nick Sambula (B Shift Representative), Scott Koehler (C Shift Representative)

Call to Order: 6:14 p.m.

AGENDA

Lakewood Fire Department transition to new leadership.

A motion to enter executive session may be called to discuss personnel matters

Chairman Bullock gave an overview of the leadership change in the Fire Department and had everyone at the meeting introduce themselves.

Chief Dunphy spoke about his efforts to lead the department and noted that one of the first things he did was meet with all 3 shifts of the department separately. In these meetings, he emphasized four principles he would like to see strengthened in the department: communication, consistency, fairness, and re-establishing the chain of command. Some applications of instilling these principles involve giving members equal opportunity for training opportunities, ensuring clear communication from the front office, etc. These points have been met with acceptance from the members and Chief Dunphy stated that he feels supported by them. He also added that he preferred to discuss personnel matters in executive session.

Chairman Bullock noted that he has received complements regarding the Fire Department and added that it has done well with recruitment and keeping up with technological advancements in the field. He shared an experience that he had observing a Fire Department training exercise and Chief Dunphy stated that he is in the process of making arrangements with Tri-C to put together a training exercise in which the new mayor and all Councilmembers can participate.

Local 382 President Seth Andregg spoke about his and the union's great relationship with Chief Dunphy. He noted a smooth transition in leadership, as they have been having discussions about the union's issues with the current Chief since he scored highest on the civil service test for the position. Several Councilmembers thanked the department for various acts of service and asked what sort of policies or procedures the department may bring to the administration in the future. Chief Dunphy noted that advancements in cancer reduction among firefighters have made it apparent that Lakewood will need to reconfigure some of its firehouses and that Council will be engaged in that process. Other Councilmembers questioned how the department planned to increase diversity in its workforce. Chief Dunphy noted that he has been in touch with the Tri-C Fire Academy director to link in West Shore Career Center students to their program. Other

efforts involve various youth outreach programs. It was noted by the chief and members of the union that the department's sterling reputation make it a highly sought-after civil service test to take.

Chairman Bullock made a motion to enter executive session and include Director Butler, Council staff, and non-committee members that sit on City Council.

Director Butler encouraged Chairman Bullock to make the motion in respect to the performance of a public official.

Chairman Bullock amended the motion to include and specify that executive session should be entered in regard to the performance of a public official, which was seconded by Councilman O'Malley.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: Bullock, Litten, O'Malley

Nays: none

Motion passed. Executive session was entered at 6:50 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.