



## MINUTES

April 5, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Community Room, Albany Police Department/VIRTUAL

Approved: 06/07/2023

### Call to Order

Cynthia Greene called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### Roll Call

Members present: Adam Brenneman, Erik Anderson, Erik Rau, Cynthia Greene, Nicholas Fowler (virtual), Evan Church, Pat Kidd, Kevin Kreitman

Members absent:

Staff present: Brad Liles, Captain; Shane Wooton, Fire Chief; Rochelle James, Administrative Assistant I

February 1, 2023, Minutes were approved.

### Staff Updates

#### **Police Update – Brad Liles**

Captain Liles provided a snapshot of hiring with the Albany Police Department. We have hired one officer, and two more are pending. We are hiring one police clerk, four dispatchers, and a community service officer. Captain Liles discussed the timeframe from hiring an applicant until they begin working independently. Captain Liles stressed that the department is not lowering standards in the hiring process. Background investigations are done in-house and are very thorough.

Staffing plays a significant role in our report numbers. Reported numbers from the public are not affected by staffing. A graphic of Albany Police Department Narcan use was shown and illustrated the increase in overdose events for 2023 and the number of overdose deaths. These numbers do not reflect the use of Narcan by the Albany Fire Department or the public use of Narcan. APD encourages the use of Narcan and increased availability to the public. There was a discussion about the public use of Narcan, cost, and shelf life.

Captain Liles discussed the crime snapshot, comparing March 2022 to March 2023. Captain Liles noted larceny from vehicles was up, larceny-other was up 47%, vandalism is up 72%, and weapons laws are up 36%. The percentage of change from year to date in 2022 to 2023 was discussed. There has been a two percent increase in dispatched calls this year. Self-initiated call numbers have been reduced partially due to staffing issues and the need for more unobligated patrol time. Priority P and priority one calls are up 21%. Priority P and priority one calls are the most severe and immediate offenses.

Captain Liles discussed using statistics to give real-time information to see the higher crime areas and focus attention on those areas. Captain Liles discussed the accreditation process along with the upcoming April online assessment and June onsite assessment review. Captain Liles discussed upcoming community engagement events, including the PRIDE event and the security measures at the event. Other public events were discussed, along with the Albany Police Departments' support for all events, the staging of resources, and the necessary preplanning to facilitate those events. Captain Liles gave an update regarding code changes for churches to allow camping for the homeless, the requirement for providing a public space for the homeless, access to services, and the potential effect on the community.

### **Fire Update – Shane Wooton**

Chief Wooton advised Albany Fire Department is moving towards Lexipol policy after receiving a grant from their insurance carrier to make the switch. Calls for service are down this month from last. Albany Fire Department is still projecting a busier year this year than last. Response times remain consistent. The type of calls Albany Fire is responding to have remained the same.

Chief Wooton discussed the types of complaints received by the department, such as no-patient trips, city vehicle driving complaints, and fire code enforcement. Chief Wooton discussed how fire codes requiring firewalls between apartments saved a local apartment from becoming a total structure loss due to an apartment fire.

The first all-Spanish-speaking CPR class was held for a parent group at South Albany High School. Albany Fire Department is encouraging and incentivizing employees to learn Spanish and working towards providing Spanish services as our community changes.

Five new recruits are in the internal academy and will finish in April. After that, they will be released to shifts and assigned to Field Training Officers. Chief Wooton discussed how all new recruits are assigned a mentor who is not on their shift to assist them with issues that may arise. Chief Wooton was asked about the recent hiring process and the outcome. Two positions needed to be filled, and the top two candidates were offered positions. Chief Wooton also discussed the lengthy hiring process for Albany Fire Department.

The grants awarded to AFD were discussed along with their purpose. Using grant funding, a new fire truck and a new water tender truck will be purchased. AFD also received a \$10,000.00 grant for work that had already been completed.

AFD is hiring a new insurance specialist due to retirement. Video interviews were completed today. Five people will move forward to interviews in the next two weeks.

Chief Wooton discussed the budget outlook for this coming fiscal year, staffing levels, and additional hires will be included if the budget is passed. Another ambulance will be staffed seven days a week, adding capacity to the AFD system. The additional ambulance will alleviate some staffing and availability issues. Billing issues for ambulance transport were discussed along with related legislation and its potential impact on revenue.

Safety Camp will be at Oak Grove Elementary from June 26<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>. Safety Camp is a joint venture between AFD and APD. The City of Albany is adopting the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan next week. Chief Wooton advised that he is working with Linn County to update their Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Chief Wooton also provided the committee members with a copy of the Albany Fire Department annual report.

Pat Kidd asked about support for HB129. Fentanyl and illicit drug use, the associated crime, and prosecutions regarding drug use were discussed. Captain Liles talked about decriminalizing narcotics, drug distribution, and its effects on the community.

Erik Rau asked if the commission has had presentations from different departments or other community groups that are related to the commission and if that would be something that would be considered in the future. The commission members said they would find it informative and would consider suggestions.

Business from the Commission

None.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Adjournment

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Hearing no further business, Cynthia Greene adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rochelle James  
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Reviewer's Name  
Reviewer's Title

*\*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing [cityclerk@cityofalbany.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalbany.net).*