



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Zoom Retreat

Saturday, October 2, 2021

Councilmembers Present: Mike Hopson, Marilyn Oertle, Debora Nelson, Don Vanney, Jan Schuette, Michele Blythe, and Heather Logan.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, Jonathan Ventura, Kristin Garcia, Sarah Lopez, James Trefry, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, and Wendy Van Der Meersche.

Also Known to be Present: Eight YouTube viewers.

Mayor Barb Tolbert called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, and the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jan Schuette moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Marilyn Oertle seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Mayor Tolbert welcomed everyone and introduced City Attorney Steve Peiffle, who acted as retreat facilitator. Mr. Peiffle provided ground rules of today's discussion with an overview of the agenda, regarding the police department's five-year plan, including policing, funding, staffing, budget, including new legislative changes. Mr. Peiffle then introduced City Administrator Paul Ellis.

Police Department Five-Year Plan

City Administrator Paul Ellis greeted everyone, and stated that the information to be covered was included in the notebooks distributed earlier in the week.

Mr. Ellis began reviewing the PowerPoint presentation, beginning with the department's 2018 goals and 2022 overall goals.

- Improve quality of life
- Strengthen community partnerships
- Improve public perception
- Provide exceptional law enforcement services

Mr. Ellis reviewed current operations, including a brief review of the effects of 2021 Legislative Police Reform.

Mr. Ellis then introduced Chief Jonathan Ventura. Chief Ventura spoke of the difference between proactive and reactive policing, and the public's perception of police patrol versus reality. He then continued reviewing the PowerPoint presentation, beginning with Council's priorities from 2018, and 2021 Legislative Police Reform, with the top five items that are affecting Arlington police department. He expanded on each of the five following areas.

- Less Lethal Tactics
- Pursuits
- Reasonable Suspicion / Probable Cause
- Use of Force/ Mental Health
- Recording of Interviews

Discussion followed with Chief Ventura and Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

After a break at 10:22, discussion resumed at 10:31, with Chief Ventura discussing additional challenges the department is facing:

- Minimum staffing (three)
- Currently occurs 25.42% of time, would need four to reach 100%
- FMLA, military leave, injury, academy, sick leave, vacation
- Response times
- Approaching seven minutes
- Non-emergency call response can take up to several hours.
- Calls For Service (CFS) per officer
- #2 in Snohomish County for calls per officer
- Community police model recommends 66% of officer time proactive
- APD currently at 39% proactive
- Reporting, Training, Supervision to meet requirements of Legislative Reform
(Add lieutenant position)

Discussion followed with Chief Ventura and Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

Mr. Ellis continued the presentation with three scenarios of staffing models outlining revenues and expenses, for Police, IT, and Maintenance and Operations. These scenarios were created for Council to discuss and determine what they would like to see accomplished in the future. Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis and Chief Ventura answering Council questions.

City Administrator Paul Ellis concluded the PowerPoint presentation with a discussion regarding the following Action Items for 2022:

- Systems Administration II (IT)
- Promotion to Lieutenant (PD)
- Body Cameras and Tasers (PD)
- Evidence/ PIO Tech (PD)

And not listed above is the proposed Community Resource Officer position to be converted to Patrol Officer. Lateral police positions and signing bonuses were also discussed.

Councilmembers gave a thumbs up for staff to proceed with 2022 Budget Amendments, as described above.

Chief Ventura discussed traffic issues reported in the City, and stated that the department has invested heavily in technology to best use their resources, with lighted signage, and technology to obtain data to identify problems and direct resources for public safety. Chief Ventura patrols and performs traffic enforcement himself on Wednesdays. Mr. Ellis spoke about two areas that assist with traffic control – education and enforcement. He has been working with Police and Public Works to address the traffic issues. Mr. Ellis proposed to Council that in the 2022 budget amendments, he include an amendment using construction sales tax to dedicate \$60,000 of capital funding for traffic education to purchase a radar trailer and signage. He would then contact Public Works for locations where those would be most beneficial. All councilmembers gave a thumbs up to proceed.

City Administrator Paul Ellis spoke of the future of policing, which includes social services. He stated that Arlington has five different social services programs that are at different levels of implementation, with a total annual expenditure of \$661,030, with funding mostly of grant money. Reporting the status of these programs to Council will become a priority in the future.

Other Budgetary Matters

A memo from Mr. Ellis regarding the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) was included to Council for discussion. The Transportation Benefit District is approaching renewal. The TBD was put into place in 2013. To continue in 2024, it will need to be brought to the voters on the February or August 2023 ballot. Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis answering Council questions. A report outlining TBD accomplishments will be coming in the future for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The retreat was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.


Barbara Tolbert, Mayor

