

EMERGENCY SERVICE AND POLICE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 4, 2024

**In Attendance:**

**Members:** Councilman Bob Hyatt, Councilwoman Don Hayden, Councilman Bill Farnham

**Absent:**

**City Staff:** John Doyle, Jen Worth, Chief Cordova, Daniela Breedlove, Michele Brown,

**Guests:** Chief Mike Shempert, Jordan Light

**Media:** Darrell Maurina

- **Call to Order and Citizen Comments:** Councilman Farnham called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. No Citizen Comments.
- **Approval of minutes-** Councilman Hyatt made a motion to approve the March 7, 2024, meeting minutes. Councilman Hays seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Detective Corporal Position- Brian Moore-** John Doyle stated there were only 2 employees who qualified for this position. One officer stated he was not interested in the position. The other one was very qualified for the position. John Doyle stated instead of going through the interview process again, we used the Corporal test they just gave them and used their scores from that. The position was offered to Brian Moore, and he accepted the position. This position is a non-supervisory position. John Doyle stated that Brian Moore will officially be pinned at the next council meeting.
- **Storm April 2, 2024, Recovery Effort-** John Doyle stated that the City is reporting no outages at this time. If they are out of power, we want to know, the reasons will be on their end due to weather mast, or meter base ripped off of the house. We saw this storm twist transformers around poles. John Doyle stated that we have started a list of customers that still have do not have power. The building inspector, Nathan Carmon, has been in contact with the homeowners to make them aware of why they do not have power, letting them know that it is an issue on the owner's side and their responsibility to take care of. Councilman Hyatt asked if we knew what percentage was out of power. John Doyle stated that it was around 70% of the City that was without power. Feeders 1,2, and 3 were completely out of power. Feeder 5 is an underground system, that is why City Hall still had power. John Doyle stated our team split forces and Michele Brown took over Face Book posting to help clear up confusion on some citizens posts of who their utility providers were during the outage. Councilman Hyatt asked how many poles we lost. John Doyle stated somewhere between 10-15 poles. John Doyle stated there has been some preplanning with a lot of storm recovery. There is a lot of debris in people's yards and on houses. We recognize the need for some sort of clean up. Effort is being coordinated by COAD and Pulaski County OEM. They have procured 2 organizations, a methodist and a Baptist volunteer organization. Both organizations have been vetted, as we are trying to prevent some contractor fraud. John Doyle stated that applications will be available starting Monday at 10:00am and can be picked up at Waynesville, Saint Robert, Crocker, Dixon, or Richland City Halls and are free of charge. The application process will only last 8 days and only inclusive to residential homes. John Doyle stated that the leaf dump will be open for public use until storm clean up is complete. Spring Clean up in Waynesville will be postponed due to storm clean up. City of Saint Robert is trying to get a grant to help them with storm clean up and if they do spring clean up at the same time it may prevent them from getting the grant.
- **Animal Shelter Update-** Daniela Breedlove stated that she had numbers for all the shelters since the beginning of the year. FLW has taken in 20 dogs, 7 have been adopted, 11 returned to the owner and 2 in house. FLW has taken in 6 cats. 4 adopted and 2 in house. There have been 29 dogs taken in from Saint Robert. 8 have been adopted, 7 returned to the owner, 13 in house and 1 euthanized. There have been 26 dogs taken in from Waynesville. 22 have been adopted, 6 returned to the owner and 1 transferred. There have been 20 dogs taken in from County. 14 have been

EMERGENCY SERVICE AND POLICE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2024

- adopted, 1 returned to the owner and 5 in house. Daniela Breedlove stated that she has another court case with the MP's with a German Shepard. Daniela Breedlove stated the shelter is struggling with space. The back shelter is not usable, if it was, we would have 15 additional kennels plus the 15 we have in the front shelter. Daniela stated she has submitted work orders for some of the kennels in the front to be repaired. She also has an appointment with Ruess to discuss ticket writing. Daniela Breedlove asked if there was something we could send out with the ordinance letting people know that they must come to the animal shelter to register their dogs. The Kitten Division lost their roof in the April 2<sup>nd</sup> storm, and we took in 10 of their dogs and the FLW shelter. They are all up to date on shots. We are allowed to adopt them out. Michele Brown stated they will be working on the back shelter with ARPA funds to realign the back kennel and putting a hallway.
- **Fire Department Update-** Chief Shempert stated the fire station is 99% finished. John Quale repoured the 14-foot drive through bay and will replace the rest of them in the Spring and Summer time. The ones that were there could not hold the weight of the fire trucks. Councilman Hyatt asked if we still had plans to put flashing lights outside of the stations. Michele Brown stated that Mayor Wilson was talking to MODOT about that. Chief Shempert stated that sometimes that it takes up to 2 years to get done after the engineer comes out and does what he needs to do. But the citizens have been good about letting them out onto the roadway in both non-emergency and emergencies. Chief Shempert stated that at 11:37pm on April 2, 2024, is when the storm kicked off. Within the first hour they had between 8-10 calls for service and had to call more staff in. In hours 2-3, they had roughly 20 calls. Chief Shempert stated it was chaotic the first hour for the 911 center. Dispatch went to the basement to set up operations. Chief Shempert stated that they were clearing blocked roadways with chainsaws when they came across them. They have backed off on fire inspections temporarily to let people regroup from all the storm damage.
  - **Central Dispatch Update-** Michele Brown stated that Central Dispatch was dispatching at PD by flashlight, tablets, and cellphones. Dispatch has moved up to City Hall fully and is actively dispatching out of the new center. Michele Brown stated they dispatchers will be able to access utility software, Diamond amps and Tantalus which will update in real time to field staff.
  - **Police Department Update-** Chief Cordova stated Chief Cordova stated that PD is back up and running and dispatch has fully moved out. Chief Cordova gave an update on new Officer Cottrell stating that he is doing a great job. Officers are wearing blue badgers this month for autism awareness month. Chief Cordova stated that on March 5<sup>th</sup> they attended Pulaski County Emergency Operations Table Talk which included all of Pulaski Counties emergency services and some businesses. It was a flood scenario where they asked what they would do and how they would handle certain situations. On March 12<sup>th</sup> they attended CIT at the Sheriffs Department which consisted of all law enforcement agencies, Compass Health, Mercy, & Emergency Room Enhancement. This class is done to get everyone on the same page to help people and inmates dealing with mental health crisis. Councilman Hayden asked what system is in place for the officers. Chief Cordova stated the same system plus they also have HR for support. Chief Cordova stated that on March 27<sup>th</sup> Officer Hoard and ZBella were our representatives for career day. Chief Cordova stated that they received their armor for all the officers. It has a 5 year wear out. He wanted to compliment the dispatchers. Everything went out, internet, power, phones, they flexed and got the job done. Sgt Hazel was able to get a chainsaw and cleared a couple of roads as well.
  - **Other Business-** Michele brown stated that she had an update on the Animal Shelter contract with FLW. We are in negotiations to expand our services to include Animal Control. This will include some nuisance animals but will be very specific. Michele Brown also stated that that we were on Face Book during the storm giving the citizens updates, trying to help keep citizens calm and alleviate some of the call volume coming in. Michele Brown also wanted to thank the many people

EMERGENCY SERVICE AND POLICE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 4, 2024

of the community who reached out and fed and offered to feed all the workers during the storm and clean-up efforts.

- **Special Events-**
  - Best Sapper Competition- April 19th
  - The Wall That Heals- May 16-19
  - Kids to Park Day- June 1

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The next meeting date is May 2, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.