

A work session of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 5:30 pm.

Councilors Present: Brownson, Herman, Rocka, Hilton, and Mayor Jones.

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Parks and Recreation Director Dart-McLean, Community Development Director Leatherman, Finance Director Brooks, Fire Chief Crutchfield, Police Chief Spalding, Deputy Chief Halverson, Public Works Director Harrington, Library Director Pearson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, LLC.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Item 3(a): Astoria Police Department Community Survey Results

Chief Spalding presented the results of the Police Department's community survey via PowerPoint. The survey was intended to provide the department with information on the community's needs, perceptions, concerns about crime and livability, and the community's level of trust in local law enforcement. The presentation included details about how the survey was administered, the questions and responses, and the overarching perceptions and concerns of community members. Chief Spalding and Deputy Chief Halverson also provided information about how the department did and would continue to address areas of particular concern to the community, with a focus on issues related to homelessness. Director Leatherman and City Manager Estes gave additional details on state laws that regulated how the City dealt with homelessness issues through land use policies.

The Council discussed and Staff responded to questions and comments from Councilors with the following key comments:

- The Police Department deals with domestic violence and quality of life crimes daily. All abuse cases are investigated and the majority of cases investigated are sex related crimes. The Department works with the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Division on child abuse cases. Restraining orders are issued by the court and officers are mandated to make an arrest when violations occur.
- No crimes have been occurring along the Riverwalk. The level of fear indicated in the survey is because people just do not appreciate being cat-called or followed. The perception fear is not supported by actual reports of crimes.
 - Most violence by homeless individuals occurs amongst themselves. However, most homeless people are good people, and the Department's goal is to help them get services.
 - The presence of officers always has a positive effect, so officers are encouraged to get out of their cars and walk downtown or ride bikes on the Riverwalk. However, only two officers are on the road at a time and they need the ability to assist each other, so taking an officer off the road could be problematic.
 - The new community service officer and the additional lighting along the Riverwalk will help people feel safe and the new drop-in center will provide some relief to those who are disturbed by the threatening behavior and altercations among the homeless along the Riverwalk.
- Chief Spalding provided a brief update on the new full time communication manager, noting his professional experience and details of his role in Astoria.
- Councilor Herman explained she was concerned that State law prevented Astoria from requiring or enforcing good neighborhood agreements. She noted that such an agreement was the reason that issues at the Astoria Warming Center were resolved.
 - Councilor Rocka and City Manager Estes explained how the good neighborhood agreement with the warming center came to be and noted that such agreements could still continue on a voluntary basis.

Mayor Jones called for public comments.

Unidentified Speaker asked how the behavioral health crisis team was working.

Deputy Chief Halverson said the Police Department was working with Clatsop Behavioral Health's crisis team. The team has had some staffing issues, so they are not always able to respond to the Police Department. However, they do provide the Police Department with a trained professional that helps officers and directs people to services.

Chief Spalding reminded that the National Night Out events were scheduled for August 3rd and they are open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

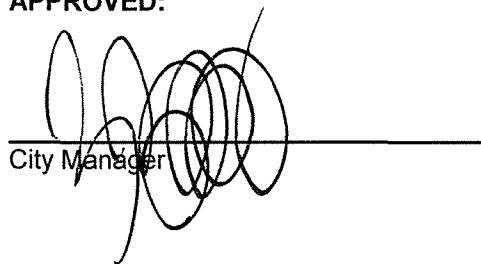
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED:



City Manager