

Minutes of the Veneta City Council Work Session
April 7, 2005 - 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Brooker; Thomas Cotter; Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Margaret Boutell, Community Services Director; Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; Sgt. Byron Trapp, LCSO; Deputy Smeltzer, LCSO; Larry Pierce, Andy Smith, Earle Ellison, Jim Bruvold, and Craig Harbison

I. SUMMARY OF MARCH 23 MEETING

Ric reviewed the discussion from the March 23, 2005 meeting. He introduced Sgt. Byron Trapp and Deputy Brian Smeltzer from the Lane County Sheriff's Office and said they will be answering some of the questions raised at the March 23, 2005 meeting.

II. UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR MARCH 23 MEETING

a) History of Resource Officer at Elmira High School (EHS)
Sgt. Trapp said a deputy has not been formally assigned to work at EHS. He said Gene Morgan, the Principal of the High School in 1999, wrote a letter to the City Council outlining several incidents they had throughout the year at the high school and asked the City to allow the contract deputies to respond to incidences that required immediate police response. The City Council agreed to the request and also encouraged traffic enforcement in the school zones before and after school hours; however, no formal agreement was entered into. The initial request was partly based on the fact a large number of the students are Veneta residents.

b) Current Agreement with High School
Although the City does not have a formal agreement with the school district, the deputies have continued to respond to deal with some behavior issues, drugs and other criminal offenses, and trespass. They have had no direction from staff or the City Council to not continue to respond. The school district contracts directly with the Sheriff's Office for overtime deputies to patrol sports events and dances.

Sgt. Trapp said their relationship with the school district has been very good and it seems to have more of a benefit than an adverse impact on the City. He said this year they have only responded to incidents at the high school three or four times. They do some traffic patrol at the beginning and end of the school day.

Mayor Brooker said he would like the City to continue to support having the deputies respond to the school when needed. He said he doesn't feel it has taken anything away from the contract work.

In response to a question from Andy Smith, Deputy Smeltzer said he patrols the school crossings about an hour a week.

c) Current law enforcement coverage within the City
The City currently contracts for three full time deputies and 1/3 Sergeant. In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Sgt. Trapp said their first priority is to respond to citizen calls for service. At the beginning of a day the shift deputy

responds mainly to complaints that come in on property crimes that have taken place during the night. Sgt. Trapp said the majority of the complaints need some kind of follow-up. He also deals with walk-in traffic, serves subpoenas and court orders inside city limits, interacts with businesses, and does traffic patrol. About 40% of his time is spent in the office working on reports. The deputies that work the evening shift deal more with in-progress types of disputes as well as traffic.

In response to a question from Andy Smith, Sgt. Trapp said the deputies have vacation, sick leave, training, court, commute time, and jail transport that takes them away from the City; however, all of their other policing functions are spent inside city limits with the exception of the assistance they give the school district. The only other time they spend time outside city limits would be for an emergency situation. In response to another question from Andy Smith, Sgt. Trapp said the majority of their work is reactive.

f) Current approach for investigating a tip tha a household is involved with producing or selling drugs

Typically all suspected drug activity was referred to the Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team (INET) which has been disbanded for lack of funds. Sgt. Trapp said it is not effective to have uniform patrol deputies try to do drug enforcement. The Sheriff's Department currently has one sergeant and four detectives to cover the entire county; therefore, their efforts are concentrated on felony crimes and child sex abuse cases. When those types of cases happen in the City, the deputies refer them to the detective division.

In response to a question, Deputy Smeltzer said he sometimes writes his reports in his patrol car while parked in front of a house suspected of illegal activity as a deterrent. Sgt. Trapp said drug cases take a high level of activity to get enough information for a search warrant.

g) Current approach for investigating residential & commercial property crimes

Deputies follow-up property crimes when they have a lead. Once the leads are exhausted the case is closed. Sgt. Trapp said property crimes are very frustrating. He said lifting fingerprints and getting a match is very difficult. When a juvenile is involved it makes it even more difficult because their information is not entered into the adult data base. Lifting fingerprints from a business is even more difficult because of the number of prints come from a large segment of the population.

h) Statistically is what is taking place in Veneta different than other Lane County communities

Sgt. Brooker said Veneta has the same types of problems as other Lane County communities. He is also assigned to Creswell and feels they have exactly the same types of issues. He said everyone in the county is dealing with an increase in property crimes.

III. INVESTING IN VENETA'S FUTURE

a) How do we align our coverage to best meet the needs in the community

In response to a question, Sgt. Trapp said he currently splits his time 1/3 Veneta, 1/3 Creswell, and 1/3 Marine Patrol. The only functions that he can do with 1/3

time is to do the day-to-day functions for scheduling, evaluations, and citizen contacts related to complaints about deputies or procedures. He doesn't have a lot of extra time to work with the deputies one-on-one or to interact with the community. He said with more time he could help enhance the level of performance by the deputies by giving them more motivation and guidance.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker about whether the City would be served better by an additional deputy or additional supervisor time, Sgt. Trapp said both would be ideal; however, increasing supervisor time is the most cost effective. He said splitting his time 50% in Veneta and 50% in Creswell would allow him to spend two days in one city, two in the other, an alternate the remaining day. It would give him more hands on time in each city and give him some time to respond to calls for service, allow him to interact more with staff and business owners, and give him more focused time to interact with the deputies. He said he feels supervision is critical.

b) How do we determine the best return on investment when faced with increased public safety activities

Sgt. Trapp said crime prevention is one technique. He said unlocked outbuildings and vehicles can lead to crimes of opportunity. Crime prevention programs show people how to burglar proof their property by trimming shrubs, using locks, and adding motion lights. He said some studies have shown that lighting can be an effective deterrent. One study showed that certain types of lighting in business districts reduced property crimes by 20%. He said criminals do not want to be apprehended and if all things are equal they will avoid a lighted yard.

IV. REVIEW OF DRAFT PUBLIC SAFETY WORKPLAN

Ric said he will have a draft ready for review at the next work session scheduled for 6:00 on Monday, April 11, 2005.

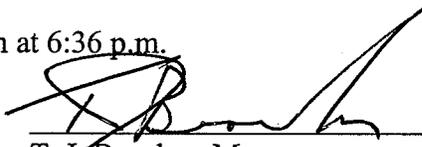
V. CLOSING COMMENTS

Mayor Brooker said he would like to have a recommendation for the budget committee.

Ric said the City received the overtime grant but the amount has been reduced to \$500.00. Sgt. Trapp said that may not be enough to cover the Oregon Country Fair week.

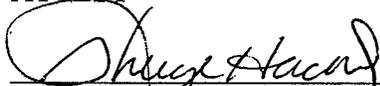
VI. ADJOURN

Mayor Brooker adjourned the work session at 6:36 p.m.



T. J. Brooker, Mayor

ATTEST



Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder

(minutes prepared by SLHackett)

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