

Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Present: B. Carlson, S. Lamb, C. Swanson, K. Kolodge, S. Langley, L. Wilkinson, Mayor Maki

Absent: None

Staff: T. Peterson, D. Randall

Law Enforcement Study Discussion

Chief Randall gave a Police Department assessment update giving an overview of the department's status, achievements, items in progress, and recommendations for the next 12 months.

Department items discussed were within management and administration, patrol staffing/operations and investigative staffing/operations. Challenges currently faced include a hiring gap, COVID-19 challenges, and the overall public attitude toward law enforcement. Chief Randall added that they are currently in a recruitment process.

Some of the achievements discussed for management and administration included proposal review for the purchase of replacement firearms and transition to a new record management system. Patrol achievements include eliminating the practice of transporting officers to and from work and implementing shift briefings. Investigative achievements include participation of patrol officers in investigations and reviewing the use of Detective Sergeant title in investigations unit.

Some items in progress are communication between the police department and elected officials, upgrade of firearms and tactics trainings, response to mass demonstrations, and establishing a vehicle replacement schedule.

Priorities for the next 12 months include developing a proactive policing target for the patrol division as well as strengthen the supervisory role of shift supervisors, additional training for coverage of gaps in patrol supervision, assigning patrols officers to geographic sectors, assigning an officer to investigations, and assigning a detective to drug investigations.

Chief Randall asked for feedback from Council on what programs they feel receive the most engagement and provide the most benefit to the community. Unfortunately, many opportunities for community engagement are on hold due to the pandemic. Councilors stated staffing is a priority but recognize that it is one of the biggest challenges.

Councilors discussed the importance of making slow, meaningful changes while following recommendations made by the study. City Administrator Peterson asked Council members to reach out Chief Randall or himself with feedback. Progress updates will be discussed quarterly at Council meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Peterson
City Administrator