
From: Charlie Bush
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 8:56 AM
To: CityCouncil
Cc: AllStaff
Subject: Weekly Update

Council,

Here are this week's items:

Fire Department

Fire Department Staffing/Personnel

- Past 7 days we have had 68 hours of coverage that we were unable to fill with volunteers/part-time staffing; over 5 shifts. These days we had to take an ambulance/engine out of service and run short-handed.
- Volunteer Testing - Next test will be October
- Recruit Academy to start in next week.
- Members of LEOFF2 affected by Social Security Option, are currently in their voting window until 9/19 and ballots have been distributed. (From Department of Retirement presentation earlier this year and council resolution)
- A current Volunteer Resident Firefighter/EMT Brandon Paulson is moving out of Station 1 Quarters in the next month, as he is going to school to obtain his Paramedic Certification. Brandon is planning on remaining active as a volunteer.
- Firefighter/EMT Dylan Witzel has officially resigned as a volunteer, Dylan is working as a Full-Time Firefighter EMT now in North Whatcom County.

Events/Training/Public Outreach

- Crews did an amazing job with an influx of calls over this last holiday weekend. There were over 50 calls and included these higher acuity incidents:
 - o House Fire with Fire District 8 Friday Night.
 - o Fatality Motor Vehicle Accident late Friday night.
 - o Fatality Motor Vehicle Accident Saturday morning.
 - o Building Fire/Brush Fire Saturday afternoon.
 - o Rescue of a person who fell into an artesian well. (SWPD assisted with Rescue)
- Have multiple members taking their Hazardous Materials certification courses the next couple weekends.
- Crews will start visiting the schools this week, with a planned visit to Evergreen Elementary.

Police Department

- Detectives continue to work on several sex offenses and a large scale fraud they located operating within the city. The fraud case has taken multiple search warrants and a large amount of seized property. Detectives have identified over 300 victims of the fraud all over Washington State and as far away as California.
- On 09-02-22 at about 1505 Animal Control Carr responded to assist the Skagit County Sheriff's Office with a search warrant. They had received information of a large amount of dogs on two properties. Over 115 dogs were taken into protective custody. This was a hard and dirty job but 115 dogs were saved.
- 09-03-22 at about 0001, SWPD was dispatched to a fight in progress involving past roommates. Officers arrived and were initially told this may involve an assault and a violation of a court order, making the crime a felony. The investigation determined that no crime had actually occurred.
- On 09-03-22 at about 0019, while Officers were still investigating the possible domestic mentioned above, SWPD were dispatched to a high risk MVC (motor vehicle collision) in the area of HWY 20 and Rhodes Rd. Two vehicles were initially reported to have been racing and one of those vehicles had then struck an uninvolved vehicle. It was later found that the two vehicles were not racing. Instead this was a road rage incident of one vehicle chasing another. The suspect fled in his vehicle. The driver of the uninvolved vehicle was found deceased. The suspect was located in Mount Vernon and booked into jail for Murder 2. He also was arrested for multiple DV (domestic violence) felonies he committed in Mount Vernon, just before his arrest.
- 09-05-22 SWPD responded to an MVC. A Skagit County Deputy's vehicle was struck while parked on the shoulder of Cook Rd near Glenwood Acres. It is reported the Deputy was transported for further medical aid but was released later that night with bumps and bruises from the collision.
- 09-07-22 SWPD was dispatched to a possible DUI. An intoxicated female was seen buying alcohol from a business in the city. The Officers located the female at a residence on Starflower. She attempted to escape Officers but was taken into custody. It was discovered the female had a few-month-old baby who she was responsible for nursing and the child was in the car at the time of the 911 report. The female later gave a breath sample of .23, almost 3 times the legal limit. CPS was contacted and the female was booked into jail because of prior DUI offenses making this a mandatory booking.
- On 09-07-22 SWPD assisted BPD with a domestic with a weapon outside the Big Mini Mart. SWPD Officers secured the scene while BPD Officers investigated the incident.

Public Works Department

- SR20/SR9-Township Intersection Improvements – Colacurcio Brothers, Inc. The new signal system was activated on Thursday 9/1/22 and is in operation. Crosswalks are operational with temporary surfacing until the remaining concrete and asphalt pavement is installed. Contractor flagging personnel assisted school children using the crossings during the first few days of operation. The contractor continues this week with preparation for final concrete and pavement. Concrete is work will take place during the period of 9/12 to 9/22 with most work occurring at night. Final asphalt paving is scheduled for 9/15/22. Final pavement markings will be installed during the period 9/26 to 9/29, after which the project will be complete.
- WWTP Laboratory/Operations Building and Public Works Building Project – Faber Construction Corporation. The contractor is wrapping up the building work this week in preparation for Sept. 8 Substantial Completion. The contractor has thirty days to complete the building and original site work after Substantial Completion. The Alternate #2 additional site work for the future Public Works Vehicle Storage Building will not be completed until October. An order for the furnishings for the buildings is in preparation. Final occupancy is not expected until the end of the year.
- 2022 Pavement Improvements Project (Trail Road and Puget Street) – Lakeside Industries. This work was completed on September 2, 2022. The work came in slightly under budget.

- 2023 Projects Design Phase. Work continues on a number of planned 2023 construction projects, including Olmsted Park Phase 1 Infrastructure and Phase 2 Structures, the SR9/Township & McGarigle/John Liner Road Intersection Improvements, and SR20-Cascade Trail Phase 2A. We are also nearing design phase obligation for the John Liner Road Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements Project, which will be followed by consultant selection. We are also in the preliminary stages of consultant selection for the Jones/John Liner BNSF Undercrossing Project Phase 2, and the 2023 Sewer Collection System projects.
- Memorial Park Design. Staff is negotiating with Pacific Landscape Architecture for final design of the Memorial Park improvements to a reduced scope that will include playground, spray park and playground improvements. We expect to have an updated Amendment 8 for this work on the 9/24/22 council agenda.

Other Items

- 23-24 Budget – Thank you for the budget conversation on Wednesday night. We now have a few more weeks of fine tuning and further internal discussion before we present our recommended budget to you.
- Fire Hydrant Maintenance Interlocal Agreement with Skagit Public Utility District (PUD) – We are close to finalizing language on the potential partnership where Skagit PUD would take over ownership and maintenance of the City’s fire hydrants and we anticipate bringing this agreement to you for potential action over the next 1-2 months. As structured, there will be an upfront one-time cost to the City but this partnership will save the city staff time and money in the long-run.
- Classification and Compensation Study for AFSCME and Non-Represented Employees – We are in the final stages of reviewing our consultant’s work on this topic and anticipate both discussing the results with you and beginning conversations with AFSCME and non-represented employees regarding those results over the next month.
- Police and Fire Negotiations – With summer vacations behind us and now that we have some additional labor data from AWC, we are looking to potentially wrap up discussions with both Police and Fire on new contracts over the next couple of months.
- Volunteer Firefighter Payroll – As Finance Director Kelly Kohnken mentioned on Wednesday night, we have been discussing transitioning some duties with the Sedro-Woolley Volunteer Fire Department Association throughout the year to streamline and update the relationship for all parties. One outcome of these discussions is the City taking on payroll functions done previously by the Association. We are preparing for this transition, which will begin in January.

On a related note, Syracuse University Volunteer Graduate Intern Richie Coleman’s work has been instrumental in supporting our shifting relationship with the Association and our process of working through a potential levy lid lift for staffing. You will see some more of Richie’s work when we present placing the levy lid lift on the ballot later this fall.

- Fleet Leadership Team – While working on the City’s budget, we’ve been taking a critical look at our city vehicle fleet’s future needs. We are forming a citywide team to further delve into this topic and to develop a strategy for the next several years of investments. You will be seeing recommendations coming out of this effort in the future.
- Wellness Policy Updates – I’ve been working with the Safety and Wellness Committee on updates to the City’s Wellness Policy.
- Meeting with Bricks and Mortar Businesses Regarding Possible Mobile Vendor Business License Fee Change – At the Council’s request from our previous conversation, I’ve reserved the City Council Chambers for 6 PM on

Tuesday the 27th for a meeting with existing business owners who would like to discuss this topic. I will be putting out a notice through the Chamber and other communications channels to advertise the meeting. If any of you plan to attend, please let me know so we can monitor for a quorum and post it as a Council meeting if more than four of you are planning to attend. We'll have a sign-in sheet and will capture any feedback for future City Council deliberations/consideration on this topic. The next stop for these potential changes will be the City Council Business Development Committee before we return to the full Council.

- Personnel Policy Manual Revisions – This project is partly done but is on the back burner until we get through the budget.

Thanks,

Charlie Bush

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Pronouns: he; him; his