
CITY OF DEER LODGE

**Public Health & Safety
COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

Thursday, February 11th, 2021 – 5:00 P.M. | Council Chambers, City Hall

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Minutes for January 14, 2021.
3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes per person
4. Old Business:
 - a. Deer Lodge Hotel - Code Enforcement Officer Tom Malcomb
 - I. Update of Hotel and communications with owner on temporary barrier.
 - II. State Inspection of building, where are we at?
5. New Business: (Public Comment period prior to each topic)
 - a. Department Reports
 1. Police Department – Chief Bender
 2. Fire Department – Chief Pierson
 3. Code Enforcement – Tom Malcomb
 4. COVID 19 Update – County Public Health Representative – Ida Miller
 - b. Police Retirement Plan MPORS – Chief of Police & Officer Smith
 - c. Snow Removal – Rob Kersch - Discussion Only
 - d. Insurance Billing Fire Department Emergency Response to Vehicular Incidents – Fire Chief Pierson
6. Staff or Committee Comments or Concerns
7. Announcement of the Next Meeting: March 11, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Public Health & Safety Committee

Members

Rob Kersch | Anthony Savalla | John Skibsrud

CITY OF DEER LODGE

**Public Health & Safety
Committee**

MINUTES

Public Health & Safety Committee | Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 5:00pm | Council Chambers

Members Present: Robert Kersch, & John Skibsrud

Members Absent: 1 Vacant

Mayor: Diana Solle (absent)

CAO: Interim CAO Trent Freeman

Staff: Police Chief Bender, Tom Malcomb, Cyndi Thompson

Guests: Ida Miller

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Chairperson Kersch called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2. Approval of Minutes for

- a. December 10th - approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment – Limited to Three Minutes Per Person

- a. None.

4. Old Business: None.

5. New Business:

a. Department Reports:

- 1. Police Chief Bender

Chief Bender summarized recent Department activities based upon 232 service calls. Officer Kenny Hamilton gone for the next 12 weeks to Law Enforcement Academy.

- 2. Fire Chief Pierson (absent)

Chief Pierson summarized report of recent Department activities 1 call for service, vehicle fire behind the Sherriff's Office. Fire was confined to the engine bay.

3. Code Enforcement..... Tom Malcomb

Code Enforcement Officer Malcomb summarized since Dec 11th there have been 7 animal calls, Red tagged one car which was removed by owner the next day and 2 cases barking dogs at large and one vicious dog. From January 1st to January 14th, 5 animal calls, 1 dead skunk, 1 mattress complaint, 78 licensed dogs, 1 stop order, 1 dog at large. Currently looking at yards especially the home with all the aluminum cans piled up. Direct to door mailing on Jan 1st dog tag renewal reminders.

4. COVID-19 Update – County Health Nurse.

Ida Miller provided the Governors Executive Order No 2-2021 that took effect immediately. The Governor rescinded Executive Order 2-2020 and 3-2020 which were the stages 1, 2 and 3 where they limited 50% compacity in bars and restaurants and bars closing early. Mask mandate and social distancing are still in place. Powell County has 36 active cases. Mt State Prison is reporting no active cases.

b. Dog Licensing and Census – Tom Malcomb/Rob Kersch

In the City Code book Dog Census 8.02.150 (a)

8.02.150: Dog Census

- A. At least once every two years a complete census may be taken of all dogs in the city and anyone found to be harboring an unlicensed dog required to be licensed by the provisions of this chapter shall be required immediately to obtain a license for such dog or shall be cited into court to answer to charges of violation of this chapter.

(Ordinance 1 – 1/17/1980: Effective 1/17/1980)

Chairperson Kersch summarized that after March 1st for any dog that is not licensed will be subject to a late fee.

c. Insurance billing for Fire Department Emergency Response to Vehicular Incidents (Committee Discussion only)

Chairperson Kersch motioned to investigate the possibility of billing insure for vehicle accidents by the Fire Department. Member Skibsrud seconded the motion. The vote was 2 Yea's, 1 Vacant.

6. Staff Comments:

Member Skibsrud questioned Chief of Police Bender about seeing City Police Vehicles parked on the freeway.

7. Announcement of the Next Meeting:

- a. February 11th at 5:00pm

8. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm by unanimous vote.

Prepared by: Cyndi Thompson, City Clerk

Chairperson: _____
Rob Kersch

Date: _____

Public Health & Safety Committee

Members

Robert Kersch | John Skibsrud | VACANT



POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

2020, January 19, 2021, February 8, 2021

Issued Seventeen notice to appear.

- Four speeding
- One DUI
- One Expired registration
- One theft.
- One Driving without driver license.
- Two PFMA.
- One Criminal trespass
- Two driving while suspended
- Three Abandon vehicles
- One Animal abuse.
- One Assist another Agency
- One counterfeit Bill
- Civil standby
- Six Noise Complaint.
- One hit and run
- Four Accident
- Five welfare check
- 152 call for service. As of 2/08/2021.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

INTEREST ITEMS FOR CITY COUNCIL, Officer Martinez turn in his Resignation letter his last day of work is February 25th

None STAFFING CONCERNS

None.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Ensuring all Officers are adhering to the necessary protocols to reduce their risk of exposure to the virus including minimizing face to face contact with members of the public.



FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

January 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Accident call. We were canceled in route. Has been quiet on this front lately- Which is good.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

- Did our annual Christmas tree pick-up. No problems to report here.
- Our new SCBA fill station is set up and working perfectly. The installer ran a training session for it on Monday Feb 1st.
- Rescue 1 truck is repaired and running great. Through the repairs we have stuff like the light plant not working. That has not worked since we got the truck.
- We will be in contact with MSU fire services about scheduling some training now that we are all healthy again.

INTEREST ITEMS FOR CITY COUNCIL

- None

STAFFING CONCERNS

- Though we have not had an official resignation turned in, we will lose 1 firefighter at the end of February. No other issues to report. At this point I think I have full crew with no person off with Covid.



CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

January 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- 10 animal calls of those 5 at large, 1 Barking complaint, 3 lost runaway, 1 at large vicious
- 2 Citations issued on the at large dogs with history
- Red tagged an abandoned / Junk RV 209 2nd Street adjacent alley (private property)
- 2 stop work orders issued for no permit (805 West Milwaukee and 517 Conley)
- Removed dead animal (skunk)
- Concerned citizen over cat at neighbor's house that passed away

PROJECT SUMMARIES

- Did to door mailing on Dog License reminders
- We have over 160 dogs that have been licensed
- Identified area where several abandoned / junk vehicles parked in city right of way
- Have a meeting on 4 February with Chad Lanes Tri-County Health Sanitarian over the state Junk Vehicle program.
- Have met with and talked with Nick Hunter Mountain View Towing reference towing of abandoned and Junk Vehicles
- Working on an Abandoned / Junk vehicle policy (using Helena PD's policy as an example)

INTEREST ITEMS FOR CITY COUNCIL

- Conducted background check on 2 business license (**dance and Equipment Sales**)

STAFFING CONCERNS

- None

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Had first shot and scheduled for 2nd shot on the 3rd of February



PERS to MPORS: What are my options?

As a current Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) member, you have several options available to you if your employer joins the Municipal Police Officer's Retirement System (MPORS).

Option 1.

Remain a member of PERS. You will continue to earn service credit and membership service towards your PERS retirement.

Option 2.

Switch to MPORS and leave your PERS account as is. Your future retirement contributions will apply to your MPORS account and you will earn service credit and membership service in MPORS. Your past PERS contributions will remain on account, but you will no longer earn service credit or membership service in PERS. You will have both a PERS and MPORS retirement account.

Option 3.

You may switch to MPORS and transfer your PERS account for proportional service. Your time will not match year for year and will be adjusted. This option requires little to no out of pocket expense for you.

Option 4.

You may switch to MPORS, transfer your PERS account, and purchase the equivalent service in MPORS. This will be an out of pocket expense to you. MPERA staff can prepare cost statements upon request and discuss payment options.

The Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

MPERA
100 North Park Avenue Suite 200
PO Box 200131
Helena, MT 59620

Phone: 877-275-7372 or 406-444-3154
Fax : 406-444-5428
Email: mpera@mt.gov
Web: <http://mpera.mt.gov>





MPORS Summary of Benefits

MPORS has provided retirement, disability and death benefits to all plan members and their beneficiaries since 1963.

MPORS Summary of Benefits

Final Average Compensation (FAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For members hired on or after 7/1/1977.: Average final compensation for member's last 36 months.
Years of Service Required and/or Age Eligible for Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 years, regardless of age. Age 50 with 5 years service.
Vesting	5 years
Monthly Benefit Formula	2.5% of FAC per year of service
Guaranteed Annual Benefit Adjustment (GABA)	<p>After the member has completed 12 full months of retirement, the member's benefit increases by the applicable percentage each January, inclusive of all other adjustments to the member's benefit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3% per year

MPORS Contribution Rates

Member	Employer	State
9%	14.41%	29.37%

Visit us online at: MPERA.MT.GOV

MPERA
100 North Park Avenue Suite 200
PO Box 200131
Helena, MT 59620



Phone: 406-444-3154
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Email: mpera@mt.gov

20 year retirement justification

Transferring DLPD to MPORS 20 year retirement will be a great recruiting and retention asset to the department. There are very few LEOs that can do a 30 year career, this includes rural department. The officers we currently have love their choice of career and most if not all will put in many years into this field.

Offering a 20 year retirement that is competitive with MSP, MHP, PCSO, and many agencies in the state and country will help keep officers here working for DLPD and not seek better benefits elsewhere.

In the short time that I have been in this department I have seen and dealt with many stressful situations. A couple that comes to mind is responding to two calls that were very close to ending up as suicide by cop. One the male subject was firing his gun into the ground, trying to get us to shoot him. I have responded to suicides that were very graphic and also had to remove people that were deceased for long periods of time and decaying.

I do love my job and this community. This is a great department. I would hope that we can adopt the MPORS retirement for our department. Knowing that an officer has the option of retiring after 20 years tremendously helps them make it through the difficult times of his or her career. It will also allow for a great recruiting and retention tool for us.

Based on \$40,000/yr the city's contribution would only increase \$2,200/yr per officer.

Listed below are things that the DLPD deals with, some on a regular basis and some on a less regular basis.

- *Suicide calls- very violent and graphic
- *Family disputes
- *CPR calls
- *Seeing mistreated children
- *Many different shifts over the years
- *Fatal car wrecks
- *Missing a lot of family functions
- *Missing kid's functions
- *Carrying 30 pounds of gear for 8 to 12 hours a day
- * Enter an or search some of the nastiest homes and cars on earth
- * Driving a lot, possible accidents
- * Driving higher speeds when responding to emergency calls
- * Dealing with unpredictable drunk and high individuals
- * Delivering death notifications
- * Taking care of viscous animals
- * First response to people in mental health crisis, having to convince them to get help
- * First on scene to medical and fire calls
- * Making decisions that could possibly take away a person's freedoms
- * Building relationships with the community
- * Possible dangers of each traffic stop from people stopped or from passing traffic
- * High likely to have to use force, up to deadly

- * Danger of pursuits
- * Keeping up on laws and procedures
- * paying for a lot of items out of our own pockets;
 - Rifle
 - shotgun
 - practice ammo
 - optics
 - car washes
 - flashlights
 - weapon mounted lights
 - Holsters that fit properly for handgun with light mounted

- * Receiving calls off duty to assist others officers
- * Transfer of retirement, if consolidation does happen
- * Paying gym membership, to stay fit for duty
- * Handling dangerous and deadly drugs
- * Working weekends and holidays
- * Working odd hours
- * The stress of looking for a missing or endangered child or adult
- * Must be willing to respond and see calls to the end in all weather conditions

