

MINUTES

City of Mankato Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)



January 28, 2025
6pm
Public Safety Center

Members Present: Chelsea Hintz, Lynn Butcher, Jessica McLaughlin, Wendy Schuh, Heather Callens, Richard Grace, Aaron Zurek, Matthew Loeslie, Councilperson Dennis Dieken

Staff Present: Jeremy Clifton, Matt DuRose, Jeff Bengtson

Absent: Councilperson Kevin Mettler

Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

1. City of Mankato Land Acknowledgement was read by Director Jeremy Clifton
2. Neighborhood portfolio exercises
 - a. Officer Landon Strong—Jaycee Park Neighborhood
 - b. Officer Austin Cook—Thomas Park Neighborhood
3. Open meeting discussion
 - a. There was no public present at this meeting but plans and accommodations will be made for future meetings to allow for public viewing and participation. It was further discussed that this committee could adopt guidelines like the City Council. City Council rules will be sent to the committee for adoption at the next meeting.
4. Councilperson Dieken attended his final meeting. Councilperson Kevin Mettler will be the City Council representative moving forward. The committee and staff thanked Mr. Dieken for his time and commitment to the committee and Public Safety.
5. November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee.
6. Chelsea Hintz was nominated, and approved, to continue in her role as committee chair.
7. Department updates:
 - a. Cheryl Lindquist separated her employment from the City
 - b. An Oath of Office is being held on January 29, 2025 for 2 police officers
 - c. A hiring process has been initiated to fill 2 firefighter vacancies

- d. Paid on-call firefighter recruit class began on January 1, 2025. Candidates are progressing along.
- e. 6 part-time Community Service Officers started on January 24th
- f. A hiring process will be initiated on, or around, February 1st to fill 5 vacant police officer positions.
- g. A hiring process is open for a vacant Law Enforcement Technical Support Specialist position.
- h. A promotional process is underway for Police Sergeant. A presentation and panel interview took place on January 27th. Additional steps are being taken prior to a selection taking place.
- i. Recruitment efforts are being made to increase the Police Reserve Unit.
- j. The City's animal impound facility opened on January 1st and seems to be operating smoothly. A meeting was held with BENCHS new Executive Director, City Manager Susan Arntz, and Public Safety Director Clifton.
- k. Public Safety had their first biennial body-worn camera audit. This audit is required by statute. The verbal results were very positive, and a final report is expected in 6-8 weeks.
- l. A bike patrol unit is in the process of being developed. Interested officers are being asked to complete letters of interest to join the unit.
- m. At the next City Council meeting, a presentation will be given to highlight upgrades in technology across the city, including surveillance cameras, artificial intelligence capabilities, squad car-based license plate readers, and mobile camera technology.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm