

MINUTES

City of Mankato Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)



March 31, 2026
6pm
Public Safety Center

Members Present: Chelsea Hintz, Wendy Schuh, Jessica McLaughlin, Matthew Loeslie, Councilperson Michael McLaughlin

Staff Present: Director Jeremy Clifton, Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Bengtson, Deputy Police Chief Chris Baukol, City Manager Susan Arntz, Administrative Assistant Jamie Goodrich

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Agenda Approved:

Meeting agenda for the **March 31, 2026**, PSAC meeting was approved. Motion was made and seconded.

Meeting Minutes Approved:

Meeting minutes for the **January 27, 2026**, PSAC meeting were approved. Motion was made and seconded.

Appearances and Recognition:

TZD Awards were presented to Officers Strong and Johnson.

Medal of Commendation was awarded to Officer McCarville.

Medical Intervention Awards were presented to Officers Honetschlager, Christianson and Cook and to Firefighters Brand, Wedel and Norman.

Department Report:

Committee designation to advise City Council on public safety matters.

City Manager Arntz provided an overview of the City Council's directions that the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) advise City Council on public safety matters.

The role of the Public Safety Advisory Committee should be enhanced to allow review and feedback by the Committee on community matters relating to public safety and to provide recommendations to the City Council on those matters.

City Manager Arntz highlighted the following:

1. A joint meeting between Council and PSAC, possibly including Greater Mankato Diversity Council, to discuss engagement opportunities.
2. To develop standard community engagement by looping business through appropriate committees and boards.
3. Potential joint training for all boards and commissions relating to cultural competencies, to include Greater Mankato Diversity Council.
4. Normalize regular feedback and updates to the Council from Council representatives of the boards and committees on which they liaise.

Additional meetings may be needed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee but there will be no changes to the bi-monthly scheduled meetings at this time. Should additional nonroutine meetings be necessary, the Committee must adhere by the Open Meeting Law Rules and Regulations.

Committee members discussed what role the Committee can play in matters requiring community involvement, and the Committee agreed to review public safety matters when requested and provide recommendations to City Council on these matters.

City Manager Arntz will be providing the City Council with an overview of this discussion at the April 6, 2026, Council Work Session.

Reports from PSAC members present:

None

Miscellaneous Business:

Discussion about recruiting additional PSAC members, particularly filling the vacant Ward 3 seat. Director Clifton suggested recruitment efforts will be addressed once the Committee's advisory work has been elevated.

Councilperson McLaughlin reported that the firefighter and police officer memorials situated in Mankato parks are in need of maintenance and/or repair. Councilperson McLaughlin suggested that grant funds may be available to be utilized to complete the maintenance and/or repair of these memorials.

Deputy Fire Chief Bengtson invited the Public Safety Advisory Committee to future Public Safety Awards Committee meetings.

Next Meeting Date:

May 26, 2026

Meeting adjourned at **7:45 p.m.**