

MINUTES

City of Mankato Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)



June 2, 2026
6pm
Public Safety Center

Members Present: Chelsea Hintz, Wendy Schuh, Curtis Peters, Bryan Schneider, Jessica McLaughlin and Heather Callens.

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

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

Meeting Agenda Approved:

Meeting agenda for the **June 2, 2026**, PSAC meeting was approved with the addition of Emergency Ordinance and Joint Meeting with City Council as topics under Department Report. Motion was made by Member McLaughlin and seconded by Member Peters.

Meeting Minutes Approved:

Meeting minutes for the **March 31, 2026**, PSAC meeting were approved. Motion was made by Member Schneider and seconded by Member Hintz.

Department Report:

The emergency ordinance relating to identification of law enforcement is set to expire on June 25, 2026. The City Council will be discussing the emergency ordinance at the June 8, 2026, Council meeting to determine if the ordinance will be extended, made permanent or otherwise revised. PSAC may be called upon by the Council to review and provide input regarding the ordinance.

Director Clifton reported that a joint meeting between the City Council and PSAC should be held, likely on the date of the next regularly scheduled PSAC meeting, to discuss engagement opportunities.

Deputy Fire Chief Bengtson reported that four part-time firefighter candidates are in the background phase of recruitment.

Deputy Fire Chief Bengtson provided an overview of the different fire service positions within the City.

A crime analyst has been hired, with a start date of June 8, 2026. A lateral police officer has been hired and started May 18, 2026, with two new officers starting June 15, 2026. Director Clifton reported that he foresees five conditional offers for police officers, once Skills are completed, which could potentially increase our need to backfill any community service officer positions that were hired on as police officers.

The Department is examining two larger projects, Drone First Responder ("DFR") and K-9. Deputy Police Chief Baukol provided an overview of DFR, with Director Clifton providing an overview of the K-9 program.

Reports from PSAC members present:

Member McLaughlin praised Public Safety for providing positive Facebook posts, such as the "You Got Caught..." program.

Inquiry about the Department's camera software being tied into local school systems.

Member Schneider inquired about speed trailers and StatTrak traffic data collectors located within the City. Clifton reported that a speed trailer/message board was purchased and will be received by the Department of Public Safety in August.

Miscellaneous Business:

Introduction of new members Curtis Peters and Bryan Schneider.

A request by the Committee to see the airport crash truck at local parades. Deputy Fire Chief Bengtson will take this into consideration for the 2027 event season.

Discussion about the importance of seeking funding for firefighter training for airport emergencies.

The Department's bike unit, consisting of four officers, is up and running.

The mobile command center has been used at critical incidents, such as the recent homicide. The mobile command center internal renovations, lighting and graphics are in progress.

The License Plate Readers ("LPR") were instrumental in IDing suspects in the North Mankato homicide. LPR was also used within the last month to assist with cases such as a kidnapping, missing person and the Mankato homicide.

Next Meeting Date:

July 28, 2026

Meeting adjourned at **8:10 p.m.**