

**MINUTES OF THE  
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL  
PLANNING SESSION  
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING  
March 4, 2021**

Mayor Frank Brunson, Mayor Pro-tem Beau Powell, Council members John Barnes, Thomas Andrews and Haskell Kibler were present, along with City Administrator Shaun Greenwood, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Andy Smith, Police Chief Gene Sealy, and City Attorney William C. Dillard.

**Mayor Frank Brunson called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.**

**1. Staff Update:**

- a. Staff will update Council on existing and proposed police projects and initiatives.

Chief Gene Sealy said that regarding staffing at FAPD there are thirty-five (35) employees. Four of those positions have been filled since the 2020 Planning Session. There are currently two (2) police officer positions open. A discussion regarding open positions and concerns from Council ensued. Different ideas for new hire strategies and plans were examined.

Chief Sealy detailed the many different types of basic, advanced, and continued/annual training the officers are required to attend in house, online, through the Municipal Association, etc.

Questions from Council regarding FAPD assisting local churches and religious organizations with de-escalation, first amendment reporters, and active shooter situations. Chief Sealy responded that FAPD has reached out to the organizations and included daycares and schools in the area.

Chief Sealy added that all our officers are certified in AED, blood borne pathogens, and first aid training. These certifications have been beneficial in many cases.

Chief began a discussion related to employee evaluations. He mentioned that the Legislature outlawed establishing quotas in the year 2016. Chief added that there are no prohibitions to evaluate a police officer's performance based on his/her points of contact.

Speed trailers/signs are posted around the city. Administrator Greenwood has spoken with Tony Magwood of SCDOT regarding temporary speed limit signs, speed limit trailers, and speed humps. A discussion of options followed.

Chief presented several options to Council regarding the look of a dedicated traffic vehicle.

The K-9 Unit began with a slow start in 2020 due to the pandemic. After research and diligence by Chief Sealy a K-9 vehicle was purchased and should be ready for pick up as soon as next week. The concrete pad and kennel have been constructed at the FAPD officer's home and the canine is in process of being picked out. Once we take possession of the dog our officer and the dog will begin the 15-week certification.

Several ordinances need to be updated due to the time they were originally written and approved. Chief said that they will be working with City Attorney Will Dillard to make that happen.

Policy management software is a future update the FAPD is considering for future budgets. The updates will be digital and utilize the tech that is now available.

Weapons and equipment updates include weapon flashlights mounted on the officer's firearms to only require the use of one hand.

Evidence storage for vehicles will need to be updated soon. Our property on Two Notch Road is an option and will need to be addressed.

Covid mediation has been managed well over the last year. There is an air purifier that sanitizes the air in buildings available from Colite may be something we need to address for public meetings. The cost for one is Council Chambers is about \$3,100.00.

**2. Council Budget Considerations:**

- a. City Council will discuss additional budget considerations for the upcoming budget year.

Mr. Greenwood reported that he has some information from sources that there could be an allotted amount of up to \$2 million in reimbursement for Covid needs.

There is legislation that is being discussed to do away with unqualified immunity for police officers on the federal level. The legislation might not pass but would impact municipalities financially. Mr. Greenwood will keep Council informed on this matter.

Council member Andrews brought up a discussion regarding the Public Safety Foundation and recognition of officers for a job well done several times a year. Further discussion will happen later.

Mr. Greenwood added that a special meeting may be needed later in March for the VC3 contract, an Htax application, and one other item.

**3. Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Barnes, Council unanimously adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen  
Administrative Coordinator  
City of Forest Acres