

AMENDED
PS&T COMMITTEE AGENDA

August 3, 2017 - North Conference Room
21630 11th Avenue South – Des Moines 98198

5:00 PM - 5:50 PM

1. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 6, 2017.

2. Sound Transit Update (Informational Item – 15 min)
Staff will provide an update on the latest coordination efforts with Sound Transit on the FWLE, and the upcoming meetings for the Pacific Ridge neighborhood.

3. Police Investigations/Regional Police Task Force Update – (Informational Item - 20 min)
Staff will provide an update on the successes and challenges of the Detective Unit to include the number of current open and closed cases thus far in 2017. Staff will also update the Committee on the Regional Police Task Force.

4. Alarm Ordinance – (Discussion Item – 10 min)
Staff will update the Committee on the City's existing Alarm System and False Alarm Ordinance and seek direction from the Committee on a number of potential areas of improvement.

5. Transportation Alternatives Program – (Informational Item – 10 min)
Staff will review upcoming grant opportunities and application deadlines in relation to transportation and see Committee recommendations on project priorities.

6. Community Connections Pilot Project – (Informational Item – 10 min)
Staff will brief the Committee on the pilot project sponsored by KC Metro providing improved mobility between the downtown Marina District, the Des Moines Creek Business Park and the Angle Lake Station.

DRAFT Des Moines City Council PS&T Committee Minutes – 7/6/2017

Meeting called to order: 5:32 PM on July 6, 2017, in North Conference Room @ 21630 11th Avenue S, Des Moines WA 98198.

Council Members

Luisa Bangs – Chair
Dave Kaplan
Vic Pennington

Other City Staff

Dan Brewer – Chief Operations Officer
Brandon Carver – Public Works Director
Tommy Owen – Civil Engineer II
Tim George – City Attorney
George Delgado – Police Chief
Bob Bohl – Assistant Police Chief
Peggy Volin – Administrative Asst II

AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of June 1, 2017
2. CIP Project Update
3. Nuisance Property Update
4. Police Department FAQ Document
5. Overgrown Vegetation Ordinance

MEETING:

1. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of June 1, 2017: unanimously approved.
2. CIP Project Update: Public Works Director Brandon Carver and Civil Engineer Tommy Owen briefed the Committee on the 24th Avenue South Sidewalk Project which will provide improvements along the east side of 24th Avenue South between South 224th Street and South 227th Place. Significant improvements within the project include:
 - Two way center left turn lane between S 224th and S 226th Streets
 - High visibility overhead school crosswalk
 - Bike lane, curb, gutter, sidewalk and landscape strip from S 224th to S 226th Streets
 - Joint utility trench and new illumination system
 - New storm drainage system from S 224th Street to S 227th PlaceCurrently, a consultant has been retained to provide design services for the 24th Avenue South Sidewalk Project and staff will continue to work with the consultant to develop final plans, specifications and estimate. The total project cost is estimated at \$1.4 million. Staff found a potential cost savings and requested undergrounding utilities for this project be waived and the Committee concurred by requesting staff to bring a motion forward to the full Council.
3. Nuisance Property Update: City Attorney Tim George updated the Committee on the 18 Nuisance Properties that were listed some time ago as needing to be addressed. The

Building Department has been working with the PD to address these properties and with the exception of 1-2 properties, all have been cleaned up. The City has added an on-line reporting section to its website where citizens can report nuisance properties and that is working out well for citizens and all the departments as well as providing a tracking method for following the progress through the system.

4. Police Department FAQ Sheet – Police Chief George Delgado and Assistant Chief Bob Bohl briefed the Committee on the recently created Draft DMPD – FAQ’s which will be available to the public as a way to get the same information out to citizens in regards to the PD Department’s Vision Statement and Departmental Mission and Values. There is a section on “Historic Officer Staffing Levels” that goes back to the year 2000, and includes an organizational chart. It also outlines the 2017 areas of emphasis and talks about the resources assigned to the Support Services Division. The Committee had some suggestions to staff for the document before it goes to the full Council.
5. Overgrown Vegetation Ordinance: City Attorney Tim George provided a memo to the Committee which outlined how the City has addressed neglected properties in the past and proposed changes to the current Ordinance to address these issues and streamline the process for abatement of such properties and the ability for the City to recover its costs for abating vegetation that grows from private property into public rights-of-way.

Adjourned at 6:45 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Peggy Volin

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Memo

Date: August 3, 2017
To: Public Safety and Transportation Committee
From: Tim George, City Attorney
Re: Alarm Ordinance

The City's existing "Alarm systems and False Alarm" Ordinance was enacted in 2005. Since that date, no substantial updates have been made. Staff is seeking Committee input as to policy questions regarding potential updates to the Ordinance. Once input is received, staff will draft an updated ordinance for Council consideration.

Policy Questions:

1. Cost of registration:
Current Des Moines alarm registration cost is \$25 per year. Should this be raised to reflect current costs/expenses. (see chart below for cost in other jurisdictions)
2. Number of "free" false alarms / Cost of false alarms:
Current fee schedule:
 - #1 in 12 month period – no charge
 - #2 in 12 month period – no charge
 - #3 in 12 month period - \$100
 - #4+ in 12 month period - \$200 each(see chart below for cost in other jurisdictions)
3. Alarm verification requirements:
Currently require Enhanced Call Verification (two calls)

4. Alarm Administration:

The Alarm ordinance is currently administered by the Police Department, specifically by Community Service Officer Kory Batterman with the help of Police Department Volunteers. Volunteers spend roughly 50 hours a month assisting with billing, data entry and filing. Kory's time spent on alarm ordinance administration is very hard to track, given the segmented way he juggles all his responsibilities throughout the day. It is a significant portion of his job duties. With the addition of Code Enforcement to the CSOs duties, there are not enough labor hours to effectively manage all the tasks currently assigned. They use the False Alarm Analysis Program (FAAP), an alarm billing program which was created by the alarm industry and offered for free to law enforcement agencies. FAAP is now obsolete and at best is cumbersome. There are several idiosyncrasies which make using it very complicated and confusing.

Several jurisdictions have gone to "Third Party Administration" of their alarm ordinance. This is essentially "outsourcing" the billing and day-to-day maintenance of the alarm ordinance to a collection company. The benefits of third party administrations include:

- a) Free up staff time to focus on other activities (Code Enforcement)
- b) Provide the ability for the online registration and payment of alarm fees (we currently only can accept payment in person or through the mail, a common complaint from residents)
- c) Provide an online false alarm education class for residents/alarm offenders
- d) Provide a dedicated 1-800 number for residents to call for questions about our ordinance, answered by professional customer service personnel trained on our ordinance
- e) Yield a better overall compliance rate
- f) Yield a higher collection rate of past due accounts by having staff dedicated full-time to pursuing and billing past-due accounts (Generally, a 90+% overall collection rate)
- g) Provide a customized website with information regarding our alarm ordinance
- h) Provide a billing mechanism designed to bill for fees other than just false alarms
- i) Provide a more efficient way to track false alarm responses and bill for them
- j) Provide online access for department staff to view alarm contact info for alarm sites
- k) Eliminate the need for a new paper application to be completed and filed every year by residents, as the contact information we have would be printed and mailed on the renewal invoice and residents would only need to make a correction if a change has occurred (a common complaint from residents)
- l) Provide more accurate account activity records than we currently get with FAAP
- m) Provide assistance to residents in different languages

- n) Provide access to established relationships with alarm companies across the country
- o) Provide an online portal for alarm companies to access/manage their customer lists
- p) Provide educational literature about our alarm ordinance and preventing false alarms
- q) Allow us to use our volunteers for other duties within the department

The following are some cities that currently use third party administration: Auburn, Bellevue, Issaquah, Lakewood, Olympia, Pierce County and Spokane.

Other Jurisdiction’s Alarm Ordinance Detail:

City	3 rd Party Admin	Registration Fee	False Alarm Fees	Cancel fee
Auburn	Yes	\$24, Annually	#1 in 12 mo - No Charge #2+ in 12 mo - \$100 each Robbery/Panic/Holdup - \$200	n/a
Bellevue	Yes	\$25, one time if monitored; Annual if unmonitored	#1 in 12 months - \$100 or option of taking alarm user awareness class #2+ in 12 mo - \$100 Robbery/Panic/Holdup - \$200	n/a
Burien	No	n/a	Requires Verified Response False Alarm Fee - \$150 Prohibited Call Fee - \$100	\$100
Des Moines	No	\$25, Annually	#1 in 12 mo – No charge #2 in 12 mo – No charge #3 in 12 mo - \$100 #4+ in 12 mo - \$200 each	n/a
Federal Way	No	\$25, one time	#1 in 12 mo – No charge #2 in 12 mo – No charge #3 in 12 mo - \$50 #4 in 12 mo - \$100 #5 in 12 mo - \$150 #6 in 12 mo - \$200 Suspend response after 6 th	n/a
Issaquah	Yes	\$24, Annually	False burglar alarms - \$100 ea Robbery/Panic/Holdup - \$200	n/a
Kent	No	n/a	Discretion to charge \$10 per alarm; no business audible alarms; violation \$100	n/a
Lakewood	Yes	\$24, Annually	False burglar alarms - \$100 ea Robbery/Panic/Holdup - \$200	n/a
Olympia	Yes	\$25, Annually (Voluntary) \$35 Commercial	False burglar alarm - \$60 ea Robbery/Panic/Holdup - \$200	n/a

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SeaTac	No	n/a	#1 in 6 mo – No charge #2 in 6 mo - \$100	n/a
Seattle	No	\$10, Annually	Burglary alarm \$115 each Robbery/Panic/Holdup - \$230	\$30, if enroute
Spokane	Yes	\$25, Annually \$35 Commercial	False residential alarm - \$85 False Commercial alarm - \$165	n/a
Normandy Park	No	Emergency Response Card	#1 in 90 days – No charge #2+ in 90 days -	n/a
Pierce County	Yes	\$24, Annually	False burglar alarms - \$100	n/a

False alarm reduction strategies:

- Fewer free false alarm responses
- Higher monetary penalty for robbery/panic/holdup/duress alarms
- Sequential signal requirement for motion sensors
- Fee for cancellations
- Third Party Administration for efficient management of ordinance

Cost Recovery:

- Cost of a Valley Communications call for 2017 is \$40.79 each.
- Average hourly cost of a patrol officer \$46.31 (\$0.77 a minute)
- Average hourly cost of a patrol officer \$54.59 (\$0.91 a minute)

