



# City of Fort Bragg

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## Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

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Monday, December 17, 2018

11:00 AM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

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### Special Meeting

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Peters called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

#### ROLL CALL

Staff Present: City Manager Tabatha Miller, Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga and Administrative Assistant Brenda Jourdain.

Present: 2 - Bernie Norvell and Lindy Peters

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1A. [19-001](#) Approve Minutes of September 19, 2018

A motion was made by Committee Member Norvell, seconded by Chair Peters, that these Committee Minutes be approved for Council review. The motion carried by an unanimous vote.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

\* None.

#### 3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3A. [19-003](#) Status and Discussion of Police Officer Recruitments

The Committee reviewed the report prepared for this item. The committee report was presented by City Manager Miller regarding police staffing percentages, history and recruitment and she introduced Chief Lizarraga who further explained Police staff analysis.

Public Comment:

\* None.

Discussion:

\* Our Police Department is 68 % fully staffed at this time. Other cities are paying officer's significantly higher wages, PERS and benefits. Regarding local jurisdictions, our City is 3rd in salaries, behind Mendocino County Sheriff's Office (Coast) and the City of Ukiah.

\* It was commented that larger cities have a higher cost of living. That is why the wages are higher.

\* Chair Peters commented that our cities wage is good for a person coming out of high

school, college or military. Why is it hard to recruit for an officer? The Chief responded that the profession is not popular currently due to bad publicity and negative media attention. Our community is very supportive of our officers, unlike other cities. We will have to ride the negative wave out for a few years.

\* Chief attended a job search fair in Sacramento. He was able to talk to many potential new officers.

\* The City has two Community Service Officer (CSO) candidates in the background process at this time and we are optimistic for them. We have an additional two candidates as potential backup hires.

\*The City has two Police Officer candidates in the hiring process. Both are in the background process and we are hoping to have one in field training the end of January 2019. One recently hired CSO will be going into the Butte Police Academy in the near future and will become an officer and doing field training after July 2019.

\* Committee discussed current medical leave vacancies and how existing staff is covering them, how the recruiting bonus has affected current staff and possible implementation of signing bonuses.

\* The Chief sees the light at the end of the tunnel regarding obtaining a full staff.

\* Utilizing the Sheriff's Department Deputies for possible fill in police enforcement coverage was discussed. Committee Member Norvell inquired if there are any additional costs for this. City Manager Miller responded, there has been discussion with Sherriff Allman on passing over their cost of this. The City is not utilizing this idea at this time.

**\* This discussion was for information only.**

**3B. [19-004](#)** Staff Report on Proposed Changes to the Public Drunkenness Ordinance

The Committee reviewed the report prepared for this item. The committee report was presented by City Manager Miller who further discussed the proposed ordinance in detail.

Public Comment:

\* None.

Discussion:

\* Publicly drinking on private property, in the public parking by hospitality house and cleaning the brush in areas downtown to prevent public drunkenness was discussed.

**\* The Committee recommended that the City Council consider adopting the additional Municipal Code Section.**

**3C. [19-002](#)** Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities

\* None.

**4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF**

\* None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.