

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

9/15/2020 - Minutes

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Call To Order/Roll Call

CALL TO ORDER The regular meeting of the Budget Subcommittee of the City of South Gate was called to order by Al Rios, Vice Mayor at 5:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

PRESENT Vice Mayor Al Rios, Council Member Maria del Pilar Avalos, Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services

LATE City Treasurer Greg Martinez

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services

COMMENTS Vice Mayor Rios spoke about the civil unrest currently being experienced in our area. The Vice Mayor asked for a moment of silence in honor of the two police officers that were attacked in Compton.

COVID 19 Meeting Procedures

Meeting Compensation Disclosure

1. Departmental Budget Review

The Budget Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the Police Department budget.

Jackie Acosta, Director of Administrative Services gave a brief overview of tonight's presentation.

Chief Randy Davis, South Gate Police Department presented the Police Department budget.

Vice Mayor Rios asked if there were any public comments for this part of the presentation.

City Clerk Avalos read into the record the comments received by email from Renee Acero who supports the Police Department and does not feel their budget should be cut.

Virginia Johnson, 5751 McKinley Avenue, stated that Susan Jenner also turned in a letter and perhaps it was not received by the City Clerk's Office. Ms. Johnson supports the Police Department does not want to see the Police Department defunded. She would like to see a better screening process and more training for Officers.

City Clerk Avalos stated that Ms. Johnson was correct and she did receive a letter from Ms. Jenner.

City Clerk Avalos read into the record the comments received by email from Susan Jenner who questioned how several people have been making comments during City Council Meetings that do not state their

address. How can you verify that they are residents if they refuse to state this information? Ms. Jenner supports the Police Department and does not want funding to be cut.

Jim Torres would like to see information on what it would cost to fund a substation in the Hollydale area.

Amanda Tapia stated that she is in support of defunding the Police Department and requested that copies of the surveys that Chief Davis referenced in his presentation be made available to the Public.

Chris supports defunding the Police Department. He feels that if the City Council observes a moment of silence for the Compton Police Officers they should also recognize the members of the community that have been killed by police officers.

Veronica supports defunding the Police Department and states the community is ready to reimagine public safety.

Rosemary supports defunding the Police Department and wants to see more money going to the community.

Alice stated that the previous callers keep stating that they are speaking for the people and they are not speaking for all South Gate residents. Alice is against defunding the Police Department.

Vice Mayor Rios requested that the Chief explain how the overtime is monitored.

Chief Davis responded that the officers receive the base salary, there are no bonuses for staff, but officers do get overtime when they work beyond their normal shifts. Overtime costs include court appearances and filling staffing needs. Overtime funds are being used to provide public safety and not reckless spending so the City can have the minimum number of officers on the street.

Council Member Avalos asked about officer burnout if the same officers are volunteering for the overtime shifts.

Chief Davis responded that there are checks and balances in place to make sure officers are not working an exorbitant number of hours. Officers work 12 ½ hour days. In the 11th or 12th hour if we have a significant event where we need officers to stay over or call additional officers in it is incumbent upon the sergeants to regulate the overtime. There is also a minimum number of hours required between shifts before an officer can work again. To attempt to divide overtime more evenly between officers, we have gone to the associations and requested that each officer take one overtime shift each month.

Council Member Avalos asked what is the minimum number of officers that are required to be available on a day to day basis.

Chief Davis responded that it varies from day to day. For instance, Monday-Thursday we have a minimum of six officers and a sergeant and on the weekend, it increases to as many as 12-13 officers per shift.

Council Member Avalos stated that a caller mentioned a substation in the Hollydale area. Is that something that has ever been discussed or considered?

Chief Davis responded that currently there is a substation at the El Paseo Shopping Center. Within increase in projects coming to the Hollydale area it is an interesting concept to look at.

Council Member Avalos asked the Chief to explain the hiring process for high quality candidates.

The Chief explained that it is a very thorough process that starts with a written process, then an oral interview presentation, physical agility test, then a pre-history questionnaire and background investigation. Typically speaking half the candidates make it through this process. Once a candidate successfully completes this process they go on to the academy and training program. From start to finish the process usually takes 1 ½ years.

Vice Mayor Rios asked for clarification on the number of officers on patrol and does it include traffic.

Chief Davis responded that the City is 7 ½ miles and it is divided into 5 different areas. Typically speaking traffic officers are not part of that minimum. We have officers that are assigned to each area, a field training officer, a sergeant, traffic officers, a narcotic team that works undercover and our crime impact team.

Ms. Acosta continued her presentation on the Police Department Budget Review.

Council Member Avalos asked what the Assist Forfeiture Funds can be used for.

Chief Davis responded that funds can be used for investigations, law enforcement trainings, equipment, operations, facilities, drug education and awareness programs. We cannot use these funds for personnel.

The Vice Mayor asked if there were any public comments for this part of the presentation.

Amanda Tapia asked if these funds can be earmarked for youth programs, community development or programs that prevent crime not necessarily police programs.

Rosemary asked for clarification on where these numbers can be found for review by the Public.

Veronica questioned how we can budget for public safety when there are no actual numbers or crime statistics to back it up. She also requested that during public comment that staff keep the presentation on the screen so it is easier to comment on.

Ms. Acosta continued her presentation on the Police Department Budget Review.

The Vice Mayor asked if there were any public comments for this part of the presentation.

Amanda Tapia asked what type of metric is being used to justify the allocations for officer staffing and overtime. She also asked about the status of payments for the bonds.

The Chief explained that there are a couple of different methods to determine the number of officers in the field and it is not necessarily a standardized approach. It can be based off the number of calls for service during the course of a day. The department responds to over 40,000 calls for service during a year and over 100 calls for service a day.

Greg Martinez, City Treasurer asked on the calls regarding injuries of a child how much time does an officer spend offline. Sometimes these require more hours rather than a quick response as the State mandates a full report.

Chief Davis responded that educators and police departments are mandated reporters and have to go out to investigate these claims. The department does receive a high volume of these calls. The time spent will vary on the case.

Vice Mayor Rios stated that Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has made cuts to the school police.

Chief Davis stated the LAUSD has made significant cuts which will result in less officers in the field, they have mandated restrictions for officers on campus, and types of equipment they will be using. The Police Department will be having conversations with LAUSD to provide public safety and work together to discuss the level of service we will provide.

Ms. Acosta responded to the question about the bond. She stated that back in 2005 the City issued 24.4 million dollars for pension obligation bonds and at the time that the City sold them there were specific interest rates that were committed to. The City has no ability to change that. The bonds will be paid off in 2028.

Manuela asked what the training for the officers entail with regards to mental health and is the training provided by a third party.

Chief Davis responded that they receive real life situational training, what to expect and what type of responses to give. Sometimes the training is State mandated and sometimes it is internal or regional training.

Council Member Avalos asked about the services that come from the Professional Services account.

Ms. Acosta provided a breakdown of the account including SEAACA, Live Scan, annual fees, alarm monitoring and janitorial services.

Council Member Avalos would like to reduce the Printing Account by \$1,000.00, Advertising by \$2,000, Postage by \$3,000, Events/Meetings by \$1,000 and Gas/Electric by \$1,000.

Council Member Avalos also asked what is the schedule for the trainings.

Chief Davis responded that training occurs at several different times of the year.

Council Member Avalos asked if the officer's overtime is connected to the sick or admin time.

The Chief responded that it is unrelated.

Council Member Avalos requested that the overtime account be reduced by \$500,000 and asked the Chief what is budgeted in the Professional Services account for the Patrol Division.

Chief Davis explained the breakdown of the account including crime scene cleanup, janitorial services for the jail and canine services.

Council Member Avalos requested that Health Services be reduced by \$3,000, Special Department Supplies reduced by \$2,000, Small Tools and Equipment reduced by \$2,000, Printing by \$2,000 and Telephone by \$2,000.

Council Member Avalos requested information on the Professional Services account from the Services Budget.

Chief Davis explained the breakdown of the account including booking fees, prisoner maintenance, DNA testing, and autopsy reports.

Council Member Avalos requested that the Professional Services account be reduced by \$2,000, Health and Services reduced by \$4,000, Office Supplies by \$5,000, and Events/Meeting reduced by \$2,200.

Ms. Acosta continued her presentation on the Police Department Budget Review.

Virginia Johnson is not understanding why people are not doing their homework before questioning the Police Departments Budget.

Amanda, Chris, Steven, and Brenda support defunding the Police Department.

Vice Mayor Rios closed the audience comments for this item.

Council Member Avalos asked about grant funding and how did the City receive these funds.

Chief Davis explained that these are grants that staff has applied for in the past and are reoccurring grants though the amounts vary.

Council Member Avalos asked if there are any other funds that the City can apply for in regards to mental health.

Chief Davis responded that he does not know of any other additional funding but Los Angeles County has agreed to provide funding for area Police Departments.

2. Minutes

The Budget Subcommittee unanimously approved the Special Meeting minutes of July 9, 2020 and the Regular Meeting minutes of August 18, 2020 by motion of Council Member Avalos and seconded by Vice Mayor Rios.

ROLL CALL: Vice Mayor Rios, yes; City Treasurer Martinez, yes; Council Member Avalos, yes.

Adjournment

Vice Mayor Rios unanimously adjourned the meeting in memory of Maria Asuncion Padilla friend of Councilwoman Avalos at 8:59 p.m. seconded by Council Member Avalos.

PASSED and APPROVED this 20th day of October 2020.